

## Russia speaks out

Putin declares peace talks "dead"; says war is going as planned. **News, Page 4**

## Inflation rises by 8.5%

Inflation spiked 8.5% in last year, hitting the highest level since 1981. **News, Page 8**

## Sox come back to win

Red Sox rally from 3-0 deficit to knock off the Detroit Tigers, 5-3. **Sports, Page 1**

## Pleasant day

Partly sunny and mild, with a high of 70. **Sports, Page 6**

# Hartford Courant



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### CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT

## Absent judge may be dismissed

Investigation ordered to determine fate of Superior Court's Alice Bruno, who collected as much as \$400K in salary while missing years of work

By Edmund H. Mahony

Hartford Courant

The state Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered an unprecedented investigation that could lead to the removal or suspension of Superior Court Judge Alice

Bruno, who has collected as much as \$400,000 in salary while missing nearly 2½ years of work for what she describes as health-related reasons.

The justices appointed Robert Devlin, the retired judge and federal prosecutor recently appointed as

the state's new Inspector General, to direct the investigation. He is given broad powers, including the authority to collect all of Bruno's personnel and health records and order her to submit to further medical examinations, the ruling says. The order also requires all judges

and judicial branch employees to cooperate with Devlin, something one judge called "significant and unprecedented."

Bruno, 66, has been involved in a strange standoff for more than three years with the judges of the state judicial branch over her attendance and performance at work. The branch contends her prolonged absence while collecting a salary violates the code of

judicial conduct by, among other things, undermining public confidence in the judiciary. She claims she has become incapacitated by an undisclosed health condition that has been aggravated by years of antagonism by senior administrators in the court system.

The standoff has started discussion among lawyers, judges and

*Turn to Judge, Page 7*

A mother killed by a stray bullet moved from Puerto Rico to find safety. Now her family mourns the loving seamstress whose talents knew no limits.



Mabel Martinez Antongiorgi, a 56-year old mother of three from Puerto Rico, was killed on Saturday when a stray bullet pierced her home. COURTESY

## TRAGEDY'S SCAR

By Taylor Hartz

Hartford Courant

The second bedroom in a pale green house on Orange Street in Waterbury was transformed into Mabel Martinez Antongiorgi's craft room, complete with a mannequin modeling her designs and a wooden shelf built by hand by her husband that holds her color coordinated spools of ribbon.

Painted a subtle shade of lilac and a deep purple, the walls are lined with mountains of her carefully sorted supplies — thread and twine, fabric and buttons — and decorated with her memories. Photos of her family and a dollar bill, the first she earned from selling her crafts, are hung with tape on the wall above her desk.

But one wall now bears the scar of a life cut short, the paint crumbled in a small circle where a single stray bullet flew from the street, pierced the home and struck Antongiorgi as she sewed.

Underneath a painting of a bloom-



Antongiorgi and her husband, John Luis Mercado, are pictured at the wedding of their eldest son, Juan Luis Mercado Martinez.

TAYLOR HARTZ/HARTFORD COURANT

ing tree that she had made herself, and inches from the window that poured streams of light onto her desk, is a hole that tracks the trajectory of one bullet that struck the 56-year-old on a Saturday afternoon.

"This is where I found her," said her son Juan Luis Mercado Martinez. It was his first time back in the room since that day.

That day, he'd been at his mother's house talking to his greatest confidant only 10 minutes before the shots rang out. He told her he'd be right back, and they exchanged "I love you's."

Moments later, he returned to the neighborhood to a cacophony of lights and sirens. Police said there had been a shootout in the street, he said, so he went inside to check on his mom.

"I walked in and she was laying on the ground and I saw the bullet hole," he said, touching the left side of his own forehead. "I just started screaming and

*Turn to Tragedy, Page 3*

## 10 shot in Brooklyn subway

Police try to track van renter possibly tied to violence

By Jim Mustian, Jennifer Peltz, Michael R. Sisak and Michael Balsamo  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A gunman in a gas mask and construction vest set off a smoke grenade and fired a barrage of bullets in a rush-hour subway train, shooting at least 10 people Tuesday, authorities said. Police were trying to track down the renter of a van possibly connected to the violence.

Police Chief of Detectives James Essig said investigators weren't sure whether the man, identified as Frank R. James, 62, had any link to the subway attack.

Authorities also were looking into social media posts by someone with the same name that mentioned homelessness, New York and Mayor Eric Adams, leading officials to tighten the mayor's security detail, Essig and Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell said. She said the posts were "concerning."

The attack made the subway a scene of horror: a smoke-filled car with at least 33 rounds of gunfire going off, police said. Frightened commuters ran from the train and others limped out of it. At least one rider collapsed on the platform.

"My subway door opened into calamity. It was smoke and blood and people screaming," eyewitness Sam Carcamo told radio station 1010 WINS. The gunfire erupted on a train that pulled into a station in the Sunset Park neighborhood, about a 15-minute ride from Manhattan and predominantly home to Hispanic and Asian communities.

Five people were in critical condition but expected to survive. At least 29 in all were

*Turn to Subway, Page 2*

F. MAC BUCKLEY, 81

## Lawyer, boxer was 'larger-than-life'

By Edmund H. Mahony

Hartford Courant

F. Mac Buckley, the flamboyant defense lawyer and boxer whose career took him to the very top of the legal profession and later landed him in jail with some of his clients, died Monday after a long illness.

He was 81.

For 30 years or so, beginning in the late 1960s, the gregarious, gravel-voiced lawyer, who called himself Mac, seemed to be everywhere and known to everyone.

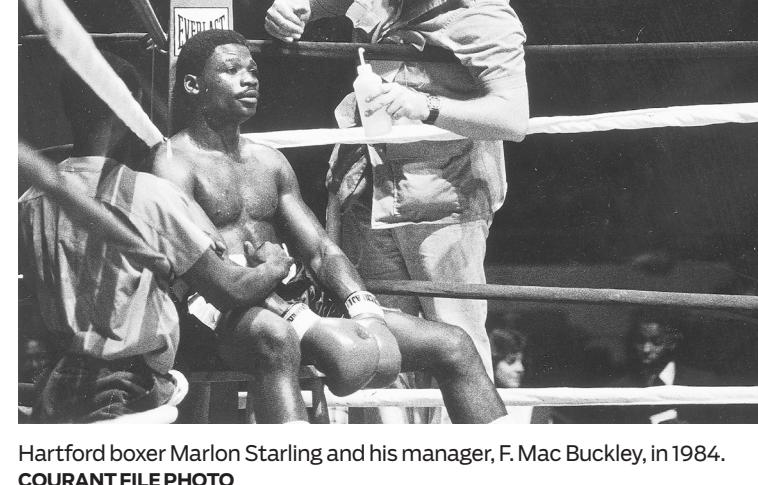
He was a tough-talking federal prosecutor who packed a gun and

wasn't shy about pulling it if he saw a suspect. Later, as a defense lawyer, his exuberance and knack for story-telling won over both jurors and judges — and the crowds that sometimes packed courtrooms to watch his closing arguments.

While not performing in court, Buckley ran for Congress as the Republican candidate for the state's 1st district in 1974, ran campaigns for others and was elected to the Newington Town Council in Newington for two years beginning in 1975.

He may have been most content though in a dingy cellar at the since razed Charter Oak housing proj-

*Turn to Buckley, Page 3*



Hartford boxer Marlon Starling and his manager, F. Mac Buckley, in 1984.

COURTANT FILE PHOTO

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## State orders investigation into Killingly school board

The state is probing the Killingly Board of Education after some parents and residents alleged the board is failing to meet social and emotional health standards. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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## FROM PAGE ONE

## Jury sees Todt's confession in family's killings

By Monivette Cordeiro

Orlando Sentinel

Anthony Todt told detectives he sat for hours on the bed of his 4-year-old daughter Zoe trying to bring himself to kill her.

"I needed to save her soul," Todt told detectives from the Osceola County Sheriff's Office in a videotaped confession that was shown to the jury in his murder trial Tuesday. "I wanted her to be with us."

Todt described laying on top of the 30-pound girl and smothering her with a pillow for about 10 to 15 minutes. In court, Todt shook his head as he heard his past recounting of the killing.

"How long did she kick and scream?" Detective Cole Miller asked.

"Only for a couple minutes," Todt said on the video.

Jurors watched hours of Todt's confession in the trial for the Connecticut physical therapist accused of killing his wife, children and dog at their Central Florida home.

He is charged with four counts of first-degree murder and one count of animal cruelty in the killings of 42-year-old Megan Todt; the couple's children Alek, 13,

Tyler, 11, and Zoe; and their dog Breezy. Law enforcement found Todt living with the blanket-wrapped decomposing bodies in January 2020 at their Celebration home on Reserve Place.

Todt, 46, has pleaded not guilty.

After his arrest, Todt was involuntarily committed under Florida's Baker Act because authorities said he made comments about harming himself and said he had ingested Benadryl pills.

Detectives interrogated Todt three times, and he repeatedly confessed his involvement. A judge, though, ruled to exclude the first confession because detectives failed to fully inform Todt of his constitutional rights.

Todt has since blamed his wife for the slayings in jailhouse writings, claiming she took her life after poisoning the children with a tainted dessert and stabbing them in their sleep.

In the video shown to jurors Tuesday, Todt told detectives he wanted to be with his family on "the other side."

"You know your wife and children are deceased?" Miller asked.

"That's where I want to

be," Todt said during his confession.

Todt told detectives his wife, who was chronically ill, started watching videos that predicted an upcoming apocalypse and described how to reach "salvation." Todt said he and his wife spoke to their children about killing themselves.

"We don't want you to die," Todt claimed his kids said. "We want to die with you."

Anthony Todt told detectives he and his wife made plans to kill the family before Christmas, starting with Zoe. He said Megan Todt was outside when he killed their daughter but helped him suffocate their eldest son Alek by holding his legs.

Todt said they consoled each other after killing their two children but decided they needed to continue with the plan and kill Tyler.

"We have to finish this," Todt claimed his wife said. "There's one more left."

Todt claimed his wife was "doing meditations" as he suffocated and stabbed their youngest son.

"We had salvation in mind," Todt said. "... We love our kids."

Todt said after he killed their dog, his wife stabbed herself and they waited

together for her death. Megan Todt drank Benadryl to quicken the process and got so frustrated she asked her husband to kill her, Anthony Todt claimed.

"If you love me, you can do this," he claimed his wife said. "I want to be with my babies."

Todt told detectives he tried to kill himself in a variety of ways in the weeks after their deaths, including overdosing on Benadryl and hanging himself, though he "chickened out" of using a knife. He said he took "full responsibility" for the killings.

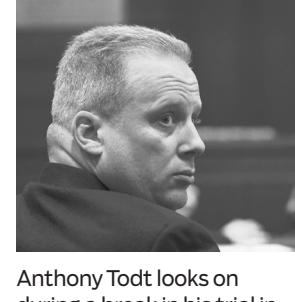
"If I could commit suicide right now, I would," he said. "... I'm not hiding behind lawyers."

Jurors also heard testimony Tuesday from several experts, including a medical examiner.

Megan Todt and her three children had been dead for "at least a couple weeks" before they were found by law enforcement, said Jennifer Nara, a former Orange-Osceola associate medical examiner.

The state of their decomposition made it hard to determine any injuries or if they had been asphyxiated, Nara said.

"I did not rule it out," Nara



Anthony Todt looks on during a break in his trial in Florida on Monday. **RICARDO RAMIREZ BUXEDA/ORLANDO SENTINEL**

told jurors. "Just given the scale of decomposition, I cannot tell if they were suffocated or strangled."

The cause of death for all four victims was homicidal violence of "unspecified means" in association with a Benadryl toxicity, according to the medical examiner. A forensic toxicologist testified the amount of Benadryl in the victims could have caused fatigue, lethargy or possibly a coma. The medical examiner said the boys each had one non-fatal stab wound to their abdomens. Neither wound hit vital organs or caused hemorrhaging, which means they were stabbed after they died, Nara told jurors.

Megan Todt, though, had two stab wounds that went at least eight inches deep

into the abdominal cavity and hemorrhaging, Nara said.

"To me, that indicates that she sustained those injuries antemortem — when she was alive," she said.

Orange-Osceola Public Defender Robert Wesley asked Nara if Megan Todt's injuries were self-inflicted.

"Based on the autopsy, I was not able to determine whether she inflicted it herself or whether it was inflicted on her," she said.

During his interrogation, Todt denied stabbing the boys after they died and said the children were given "cough medicine" because they were sick and not as a sedation method.

Prosecutors said Todt's fingerprints were found on boxes of Benadryl scattered throughout the house.

Christopher Conklin, a crime lab analyst with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, told jurors he tested the handle of a knife found in the bedroom with the bodies. It contained a mixture of DNA from three people, with the entire Todt family being possible contributors, Conklin said.

Jurors will return to the Osceola County Courthouse Wednesday morning to hear more testimony in the trial.

## Subway

from Page 1

treated at hospitals for gunshot wounds, smoke inhalation and other conditions, according to hospitals.

Sewell said the attack was not being investigated as terrorism, but that she was "not ruling out anything." The shooter's motive was unknown.

Authorities found a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun at the scene, along with extended magazines, a hatchet, detonated and undetonated smoke grenades, a black garbage

can, a rolling cart, gasoline and the key to a U-Haul van, Essig said.

He said the key led investigators to the van renter, finding that he has addresses in Philadelphia and Wisconsin.

The officials said authorities zeroed in on a person of interest after the credit card used to rent the van was found at the shooting scene.

The van was found, unoccupied, elsewhere in Brooklyn.

Investigators believe the weapon jammed, preventing the suspect from continuing to fire, the

officials said. The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has completed an urgent trace to identify the gun's manufacturer, seller and initial owner.

The attack unnerved a city on guard about a rise in gun violence and the ever-present threat of terrorism. It left some New Yorkers jittery about riding the nation's busiest subway system and prompted officials to increase policing at transportation hubs from Philadelphia to Connecticut.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced last fall that it

had put security cameras in all 472 subway stations city-wide, saying they would put criminals on an "express track to justice." But at the station where the train arrived, the cameras apparently weren't working.

MTA system chief Janno Lieber told TV interviewers he didn't know why the cameras malfunctioned. But he said police had "a lot of different options" from cameras elsewhere on the subway line to get a glimpse of the shooter.

One rider's video, shot through a closed door between subway cars, shows a person in a hooded

sweatshirt raising an arm and pointing at something as five bangs sound. In another video, smoke and people pour out of a subway car, some limping.

"Someone call 911!" a person shouts.

Other video and photos from the scene show people tending to bloodied passengers lying on the platform — some amid what appear to be small puddles of blood — and another person on the floor of a subway car.

Rider Juliana Fonda, a broadcast engineer at WNYC-FM, told its news site Gothamist that passengers from the car behind

hers started banging on the connecting door.

"There was a lot of loud pops, and there was smoke in the other car," she said. "And people were trying to get in and they couldn't, they were pounding on the door to get into our car."

As police searched for the shooter, Gov. Kathy Hochul warned New Yorkers to be vigilant.

"This individual is still on the loose. This person is dangerous," the Democrat said at a news conference just after noon. "This is an active shooter situation right now in the city of New York."

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## LOTTERY

Tuesday, April 12

**PLAY 3 DAY**  
0 4 3 WB: 4

**PLAY 4 DAY**  
4 4 8 1 WB: 0

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

## MONDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

**PLAY 3 NIGHT**  
0 3 2 WB: 8

**PLAY 4 NIGHT**  
9 1 5 9 WB: 1

**CASH 5**

4 8 28 33 34

**LUCKY FOR LIFE**  
1 8 38 41 43 LB: 6

**Friday's est. Lotto jackpot:** \$1.8 million

**Tonight's est. Powerball jackpot:** \$302 million

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## FROM PAGE ONE

## State's legal leaders celebrate Jackson's confirmation

By Don Stacom  
Hartford Courant

Proclaiming a historic civil rights advancement that has some Connecticut roots, leaders of the state's legal community on Tuesday celebrated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Judge Jackson's confirmation is a confirmation of our profession's evolution, our progress in our journey to becoming a profession that is truly reflective of the society we serve," said Cecil Thomas, president of the Connecticut Bar Association.

At a small group of public

defenders, law school representatives and Bar Association leaders gathered on the steps of the state Supreme Court at mid-day Tuesday to talk about the significance of the first Black female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

"With Judge Jackson's confirmation, the members of the African-American legal community can aspire to achieve in the legal profession and know that there are no barriers — and that every aspect of our profession is accessible to them," said Thamar Esperance-Smith, president-elect of the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, the statewide organization of Black attorneys, judges and

law students.

"The addition of Judge Jackson to the Supreme Court begins the necessary stop in ensuring that our nation's highest court begins to reflect the colorful tapestry that this country is composed of," Esperance-Smith said.

The gathering was organized by Sen. Richard Blumenthal, an outspoken advocate for Jackson throughout the contentious — sometimes bitterly angry — confirmation process.

"I guarantee you it wouldn't have happened without the strong support of the American people," Blumenthal said. "In the week before the vote, my

colleagues went home and they heard from the people about how extraordinarily moved they were by the spectacular performance of Ketanji Brown Jackson."

Blumenthal said there's a Connecticut link to her history-making career: The late U.S. District Court Judge Constance Baker Motley.

Judge Jackson said she stands on the shoulders of her heroes including Constance Baker Motley, a daughter of New Haven, Connecticut," Blumenthal said. "Constance Baker Motley, the first Black woman to argue in the U.S. Supreme Court, the first Black woman to be

appointed a district court judge."

Blumenthal praised Jackson's demeanor during what was periodically an openly hostile questioning by Republicans.

"When her opponents went low, she went high, to paraphrase Michelle Obama," Blumenthal said. "When they became nasty she demonstrated the aplomb and poise and extraordinary intelligence you knew she had."

Dan Horgan, president-elect of the Connecticut Bar Association, pointed out that it was 40 years ago when Sandra Day O'Connor became the first female justice on the court.

"She was a role model and a mentor for years and years to come. Now we finally have a Black female justice who will be a role model and mentor to girls of color in particular for decades and generations to come," Horgan said.

Esperance-Smith offered a similar assessment.

"She will be the first Black woman and only the sixth woman overall to sit on the nation's highest court," Esperance-Smith said. "This serves as a booster for not only the African-American community, but especially the women in our community, who traditionally are under-represented in the judicial system."

## Lamont: State may help conserve Boy Scout camp

By Pat Eaton-Robb  
Associated Press

HARTFORD — Gov. Ned Lamont said Tuesday that the state may provide supplemental funds to help conservationists purchase a 252-acre Boy Scout camp and keep it out of the hands of developers.

Lamont said he recently toured the Deer Lake Scout Reservation in Killingworth and believes it should remain open space.

"It's gorgeous," Lamont said. "So we could step in as needed. We're not the piggy bank. I like going in alongside other people."

The Connecticut Yankee Council has set a May 1 deadline to consider bids for the property. It has rejected offers from two conservation groups, The Trust of Public Land and a local nonprofit called Pathfinders, and is considering a \$4.6 million offer from developers.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal also has gotten involved in preservation effort. The Democrat said he's looking into the possible use of money from the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund to help in the purchase of this camp and

other Boy Scout properties for sale across the nation.

The Boy Scouts and their local councils have been selling off land as enrollment declines and as they raise money to help pay sexual abuse victims under a proposed national bankruptcy settlement agreement.

"Unfortunately, local Boy Scout councils are selling to the highest bidder," Blumenthal said. "So, I think it is a national challenge, but it goes to the core of what scouting means and the ethos and ethic of scouting, which they may be betraying."

Ted Langevin, who heads Pathfinders, said Tuesday he has had only preliminary meetings with government officials, but remains hopeful they can piece together a new bid that would be accepted by the Boy Scouts.

"We've still got a little ways to go to raise all the money that we need," he said. "But we expect that our objectives will align with the state's objectives and that we should be able to work together very nicely."

Associated Press writer Susan Haigh contributed to this report.

## Buckley

from Page 1

early in his career. "I'm really grateful that our professional paths crossed and I got to see him in action. It was always a treat."

Said retired Superior Court Judge Robert Devlin, another former federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's office, "Mac is an almost Shakespearean figure, in the sense that he had some low points in his life that were pretty rough. But he had more high points. He had real lawyer stature. When he and Hubie Santos were partners in Hartford, they had one of the top criminal defense firms in the state for a long time. That shouldn't go unnoticed."

The low point was lower, though with characteristic Buckley exuberance, than most could have imagined. His legal career disintegrated in 1999 when, in the grip of what was later revealed to be untreated bipolar disorder, he embezzled more than a half million dollars from clients. When he was found out, he disappeared, jumping into his car and leading police and FBI agents on an odyssey that began at the farm in Marlborough where he and his family raised beef cattle, passed by his father's gravesite in upstate New York and ended at a casino hotel in Biloxi, Miss.

Afterward, Buckley said he had a gun and a bottle of Scotch and planned to kill himself, but thought better of it. Instead, he climbed back into his car and returned to Connecticut, where he called former partner Hope Seeley on a Sunday morning and growled, "Hey Hope. It's Mac. I'm back."

He turned himself in, sold property and borrowed money to pay back clients. He lost his law license and he told the judge who sentenced him to 17 months in jail that he was going to "help people," when he got out.

He was born Francis McKeon Buckley and grew up in Westchester County, N.Y. His father helped perfect the process used to manufacture the modern beer can. He was an undergraduate at the College of the Holy Cross, where he was class president, and got his law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. He started his career in 1967 as a clerk for state Supreme Court Justice John B. Cotter and stayed in Connecticut where he quickly became known for an enthusiastic ability to captivate jurors.

New Haven lawyer Hugh Keefe once stumbled across Buckley pacing back and fourth across the lobby of a New Haven courthouse. He had his coat off, had rolled up his shirt sleeves and was muttering to himself.

"I said, 'What the hell are you doing?' And he says, 'I'm practicing. I've got some people coming up to listen to my closing argument,'" Keefe said. "Next think you know, here here comes Dick Lee, who used to be the mayor of New Haven, and his entourage. 'We're here to watch Buckley,' they said. They loved him. He was a natural on the court. He was a performer, no question about it. He knew how to tell stories. He was a story maker. Every trial to him was a story."

In 1974, he and former federal public defender Hubert Santos opened the law partnership Buckley and Santos in Hartford and turned the firm into one of the nation's top criminal defense practices.

Hartford lawyer James Wade said juries liked Buckley because he "exuded likeability."

"You've got to get jurors to like you before they are going to vote in your favor," Wade said. "In a courtroom you couldn't beat him. Judges liked him, so he was able to get away with stuff. And jurors just loved him and that's why he was successful. And he did that on both the prosecution and defense sides. He took cases as a defense lawyer that other lawyers might not dare. But Mac always thought he could figure out a way to sell it."

Buckley's cases were usually front page news. He kept Springfield, Mass., department store heir Eric Steiger off death row after Steiger dressed up like Rambo, freighted himself with 700 rounds of ammunition and a machine gun and gunned down two men who had chased a group of beer drinking teenagers out of a Suffield subdivision. He won an acquittal on a corruption charge for former Meriden public works director Joseph Franco, while Franco's codefendant, the city manager, was convicted.

Buckley's success made him a favorite among the Mafia, whose members referred to him as McBuckley. His most important mob client was Springfield gangster Gaetano Milano, who shot and killed Patriarca crime family underboss William "The Wild Guy" Grasso as part of an attempted coup by a renegade faction of the family. Milano was facing life without parole, but ended up with a 40-year sentence.

The mob liked Buckley because he talked tough and acted like he could back it up after decades of boxing and training fighters. He was once a Golden Gloves fighter. He was once recruited in an effort to save the life of Eric Miller, a young boxer who poked Grasso in the jaw and knocked him flat before the underboss met his demise.

Miller had no idea who Grasso was at the time, but was told within minutes that he had just made the mistake of his life and his days were numbered.

Buckley liked Miller and raced around Hartford for days trying futilely to negotiate a reprieve. His last stop was Danny Tedesco, the venerable Patriarca associate who ran a bookmaking operation out of a rundown candy store next to the Arrowhead Cafe, which he owned on Hartford's near north side.

"Forget about it Mac," Tedesco said. "There is nothing anyone can do."

Miller was gunned down within weeks.

Buckley's life and law practice began unwinding after his defense of Milano, as his illness manifested itself.

After jail and a halfway house, he opened another gym in a donated space no one wanted, this time in East Hartford. He was again offering free boxing instruction to street kids.

State Appellate Court Judge Thomas Bishop, a lifelong friend and former sparring partner who attended high school with Buckley, stopped by occasionally.

"I was there one day," Bishop said, "and he pointed out two kids and said, 'These are the homeless brothers.' I didn't know what he was talking about, so he said, 'They live in a car. They show up every morning and I feed them breakfast. I'm teaching how to fight clean. I tell them it can be a sport rather than a fight.'"



Mabel Martinez Antongiorgi and her husband, John Luis Mercado, celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary with their children, shown in a photo taped above Antongiorgi's desk. TAYLOR HARTZ/HARTFORD COURANT

## Tragedy

from Page 1

screaming."

As police rushed his mother out of the home and to Saint Mary's Hospital, where she died from a gunshot wound to the head 24 hours later, his younger brother Heriberto Mercado Martinez arrived at the house with his 7-month-old son, Jacob, who Antongiorgi helped care for. Juan Luis Mercado Martinez's wife phoned her father-in-law to tell him to come home because something had happened to his wife.

The pair married 33 years ago in Puerto Rico and raised three children — Juan Luis Mercado Martinez, 32, their eldest; Heriberto Mercado Martinez, who gave the couple their first grandchild; and their youngest and only daughter, Yarimar Mercado Martinez, an Olympic rifle shooter for Puerto Rico.

Antongiorgi and her husband, John Luis Mercado, 67, moved to the United States from Yauco, Puerto Rico, a few years ago after Hurricane Maria devastated the island in 2017. Earthquakes rattled their town after the storm and startled the couple, who often slept outside in their car out of fear that their concrete house would crumble in a quake, Juan Luis Mercado Martinez said.

They moved to Connecticut — to Orange Street — to be safer.

But on Saturday afternoon, police allege that a drug deal on Orange Street turned into a shootout. One of the bullets police allege was intended for 25-year-

old Waterbury man Ryan Lindsay, who turned up at Saint Mary's Hospital with a gunshot wound to his hip Saturday afternoon, entered the Orange Street home.

The bullet struck Antoniorgi while she sat at her desk in a black computer chair, her gray slip-on shoes still sitting at the foot of the chair Tuesday.

She had just printed graphics from the cartoon Paw Patrol. A new button press still sitting in a box below her desk.

"She never got to use it," her son said.

"I still can't believe this happened," he said, looking at the floor. "Seeing this spot it's like, all playing over and over in my head."

Antongiorgi's husband, whom she met at a church retreat, helped make the craft room her dream space. He built her a gray and white lattice bench with a lattice front that now lay crooked and broken.

John Luis Mercado, who works as a systems analyst, is a skilled wood-worker who always made his wife's ideas a reality. He built a sliding barn door to create a pantry in their kitchen where she cooked for her family and neighbors, and he built her a custom kitchen cabinet where she set up an at-home "coffee bar."

"Whatever Mabel wanted she could have," said the couple's landlord, Elac Aviles. He said he was always getting messages from the couple asking if they could make improvements to the home, like a wooded entryway Mercado made by hand from wood pallets. Aviles gave his tenants cabinets and shelves to help Antongiorgi organize her endless stream of craft-

ing supplies.

Looking around the crafting room on Tuesday, Aviles said her talents and ambitions knew no limits. She was always finding new ways to be creative, printing custom puzzles for children in the family or sewing masks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"If someone wanted something, she'd find a way to make it," he said.

Having rented to Antoniorgi and her husband for years, and to her son and his wife in an apartment on the same street, he considered them part of his own family.

"We'd have cookouts in the backyard," said Aviles, who works as a magician. "And she always made my costumes, emblems on cuffs and prints on shirts. She had a whole workshop there."

She also treated him as her test-kitchen guinea pig, he said, always rushing outside to bring him homemade meals when he turned into the driveway. He joked that he'd ask for seconds.

Aviles said he saw firsthand how perfectly she and her husband fit together and how close she was with her children.

"I was very close with her, I used to tell her everything," said her eldest son.

His mother, he said, was a lifelong supporter of his sister's athletic career and her biggest cheerleader. The couple had a framed and signed photo of their daughter's Olympic portrait in their living room. Bright teal letters were stuck to their front door labeling their home as the family of the Olympian.

Antongiorgi's 27-year-old daughter is a rifle shooter for the Puerto Rican Olympic Team who competed in

the 2016 Olympics in Rio and the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

In the days following her mother's death, she shared heart-wrenching words on her social media accounts, writing that her mother taught her to live by the motto "everything happens for a reason."

"But this time, this time I don't know how to apply it mommy," she wrote.

The athlete shared several photos of her with her mother.

"I really would give anything to be able to change places with you and have everything happen to me and not you," Yarimar Mercado Martinez said in a Facebook post.

The daughter said her mother had just been making plans two days ago to renew her vows with her husband in Puerto Rico.

The family said they would be taking Antongiorgi's remains to Puerto Rico so her friends and family could say goodbye.

The family is raising money to help with the costs of bringing Antongiorgi's remains, and their grieving party, to the island. They are accepting donations on Venmo via the username @juan-mercado-65.

Juan Luis Mercado Martinez said that as police investigate the incident, he doesn't feel angry, yet. He just doesn't want this to happen to another family.

As of Tuesday evening, police had not yet made any arrests.

"I don't care who did it, I just don't want this kind of thing to happen again," he said. "I don't want people to live in fear of this kind of thing happening, and I don't want to live in fear."

# WORLD & NATION

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## WAR IN UKRAINE

## Putin insists war going as planned

Russian leader says peace talks 'dead,' crime claims 'fake'

By Yuras Karmanau and Adam Schreck  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Vladimir Putin vowed Tuesday that Russia's bloody offensive in Ukraine would continue until its goals are fulfilled and insisted the campaign was going as planned, despite a major withdrawal in the face of stiff Ukrainian opposition and significant losses.

The Russian leader also used his first extended remarks about the war in nearly a month to insist that peace talks with Ukraine had reached a "dead end" and called the evidence of Russian atrocities in the Kyiv suburb of Bucha "fake."

Russian troops, thwarted in their push toward Ukraine's capital, are now focusing on the eastern Donbas region, where Ukraine said Tuesday that it was investigating a claim that a poisonous substance had been dropped on its troops. It was not clear what the substance might be, but Western officials warned that any use of chemical weapons by Russia would be a serious escalation of the already devastating war.

Russia invaded Feb. 24, with the goal, according to Western officials, of taking Kyiv, toppling the government and installing a Moscow-friendly regime. In the six weeks since, Russia's ground advance stalled, its forces lost potentially thousands of fighters, and the military was accused of kill-



Firefighters clamber across piles of smoking rubble as they seek to contain and extinguish a blaze Tuesday at a culinary school that was set on fire and destroyed by a Russian missile attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine. FELIPE DANA/AP

ing civilians and other atrocities.

Putin insisted Tuesday that his invasion aimed to protect people in parts of eastern Ukraine controlled by Moscow-backed rebels and to "ensure Russia's own security."

He said Russia "had no other choice" but to launch what he calls a "special military operation," and vowed it would "continue until its full completion and the fulfillment of the tasks that have been set."

For now, Putin's forces are gearing up for a major offensive in the Donbas, which has been torn by fighting between Russian-allied

separatists and Ukrainian forces since 2014, and where Russia has recognized the separatists' claims of independence.

Military strategists say Russian leaders appear to hope local support, logistics and terrain in the region favor Russia's larger military, potentially allowing its troops to turn the tide in their favor.

In Mariupol, a strategic port city in the Donbas, a Ukrainian regiment defending a steel mill claimed a drone dropped a poisonous substance on the city. It indicated there were no serious injuries.

The assertion by the Azov

Regiment, a far-right group now part of the Ukrainian military, could not be independently verified.

It came after a Russia-aligned separatist official appeared to urge the use of chemical weapons, telling Russian state TV on Monday that separatist forces should seize the plant by first blocking all the exits. "And then we'll use chemical troops to smoke them out of there," the official, Eduard Basurin, said.

He denied Tuesday that separatist forces had used chemical weapons in Mariupol.

Ukraine's Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Malyar said

officials were investigating, and it was possible phosphorus munitions, which cause horrendous burns but are not classed as chemical weapons, had been used in Mariupol.

Much of the city has been razed in weeks of pummeling by Russian troops. The mayor said Monday that the siege has left more than 10,000 civilians dead, their bodies "carpeted through the streets."

Mayor Vadym Boychenko said the death toll in Mariupol could surpass 20,000 and gave new details of allegations by Ukrainian officials that Russian forces have brought mobile cremation equipment to dispose of the corpses.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, acknowledged the challenges Ukrainian troops face in Mariupol.

He said on Twitter that they remain blocked and are having issues with supplies, while Zelensky and Ukrainian generals "do everything possible (and impossible) to find a solution and help our guys."

"For more than 1.5 months our defenders protect the city from (Russian) troops, which are 10+ times larger," Podolyak said in a tweet. "They're fighting under the bombs for each meter of the city. They make (Russia) pay an exorbitant price."

Moscow's retreat from cities and towns around Kyiv led to the discovery of large numbers of apparently massacred civilians, prompting widespread condemnation and accusations that Russia is committing war crimes in Ukraine.

Reports have primarily focused on the northwestern suburbs such as Bucha, where the mayor said 403 bodies have been found.

Mayor Anatoliy Fedoruk feared the toll would rise as minesweepers comb through the area.

Putin spoke at the Vostochny space launch facility in the country's Far East, during his first known foray outside Moscow since the war began. He also said that foreign powers wouldn't succeed in isolating Russia and that Western sanctions would backfire.

*The New York Times* contributed.

## COVID-19 behind grim US death record in 2021

Overdoses, cancer also factors in 3.4M dying, experts say

By Mike Stobbe  
Associated Press

navirus variants emerged and an unexpectedly large numbers of Americans refused to get vaccinated or were hesitant to wear masks, experts said.

The coronavirus is not solely to blame.

Preliminary CDC data also shows the crude death rate for cancer rose slightly, and rates continued to increase for diabetes, chronic liver disease and stroke.

Drug overdose deaths also continued to rise.

The CDC does not yet have a tally for 2021 overdose deaths because it can take weeks of lab work and investigation to identify them. But provisional data through October suggests the nation is on track to see at least 105,000 overdose deaths in 2021 — up from 93,000 the year before.

New research released Tuesday showed a particularly large jump in overdose deaths among 14- to 18-year-olds.

Adolescent overdose death counts were fairly constant for most of the last decade, at around 500 a year, according to the paper published by the Journal of the American Medical Association. They almost doubled in 2020, to 954, and the researchers estimated

that the total hit nearly 1,150 last year.

Joseph Friedman, a UCLA researcher who was the paper's lead author, called the spike "unprecedented."

Teen fatalities accounted for only about 1% of the total of overdose deaths in the United States. But adolescents experienced a greater relative increase than the overall population, even though surveys suggest drug use among teenagers is down.

Experts attributed the spike to fentanyl, a highly lethal drug that has been cut into heroin for several years. More recently it's also been pressed into counterfeit pills resembling prescription drugs that teens sometimes abuse.

The total number of U.S. deaths often increases year to year as the U.S. population grows. But 2020 and 2021 saw extraordinary jumps in death numbers and rates, due largely to the pandemic.

Those national death trends affect life expectancy — an estimate of the average number of years a baby born in a given year might expect to live.

With rare exceptions, U.S.

life expectancy has reliably inched up year after year.

But the CDC's life expectancy estimate for 2020 was



Staffers prepare to move the body of a COVID-19 patient to a funeral home van in Shreveport, La. Statistics signal that 2021 was the deadliest year in U.S. history. GERALD HERBERT/AP 2021

about 77 years — more than a year and a half lower than what it was in 2019.

The CDC has not yet reported its calculation for 2021. But Goldman and some other researchers have been making their own estimates, presented in papers that have not yet been published in peer-reviewed journals.

Those researchers think U.S. life expectancy dropped another five or six months in 2021 — putting it back to where it was 20 years ago.

A loss of more than two

years of life expectancy over the last two years "is mammoth," Goldman said.

One study looked at death data in the U.S. and 19 other high-income countries. The U.S. fared the worst.

"What happened in the U.S. is less about the variants than the levels of resistance to vaccination and the public's rejection of practices, such as masking and mandates, to reduce viral transmission," one of the study's authors, Dr. Steven Woolf of Virginia Commonwealth University, said.

Some experts are skeptical that life expectancy will

bounce back. They worry about long-term complications of COVID-19 that may hasten the deaths of people with chronic health problems.

Preliminary — and incomplete — CDC data suggest there were 805,000 U.S. deaths in about the first three months of this year. That's well below the same period last year, but higher than the comparable period in 2020.

"We may end up with a 'new normal' that's a little higher than it was before," Anderson said.

## New Okla. law makes providing abortion illegal

By Sean Murphy  
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt signed a bill into law Tuesday that makes it a felony to perform an abortion, punishable by up to 10 years in prison, as part of an aggressive push in Republican-led states across the country to scale back abortion rights.

The bill, which takes effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns next

month, makes an exception only for an abortion performed to save the life of the mother. Abortion rights advocates say the bill signed by the GOP governor is certain to face a legal challenge.

Its passage comes as the conservative U.S. Supreme Court considers ratcheting back abortion rights that have been in place for nearly 50 years.

"We want to outlaw abortion in the state of Oklahoma," Stitt said during a

signing ceremony for the bill, flanked by anti-abortion lawmakers, clergy and students. "I promised Oklahomans that I would sign every pro-life bill that hits my desk, and that's what we're doing here today."

Under the bill, anyone convicted of performing an abortion would face up to 10 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine. It does not authorize criminal charges against a woman for receiving an abortion.

Sen. Nathan Dahm, a

Broken Arrow Republican running for Congress who wrote the bill, called it the "strongest pro-life legislation in the country, which effectively eliminates abortion in Oklahoma."

Dahm said the bill would apply to any physicians in Oklahoma who dispense abortion medication to women, which accounted for about 64% of all abortions performed in Oklahoma in 2020, the most recent year for which statistics were available.



Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt speaks after signing into law a bill making it a felony to perform an abortion. SUE OGROCKI/AP

## WORLD &amp; NATION

## NEWS BRIEFING

## UK's Johnson pays police fine, apologizes for lockdown parties

From news services

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Tuesday that he paid a fine from police for attending a lockdown-breaching birthday party in his official residence, making him the first British leader to be sanctioned for breaking the law while in office.

The fines for Johnson, his wife, Carrie, and Treasury chief Rishi Sunak brought a simmering crisis for the prime minister back to full boil, with opposition politicians calling for his resignation.

Johnson and his Conservative government have faced growing outrage since allegations surfaced late last year that he and his staff flouted Britain's pandemic restrictions and held office parties in 2020 and 2021 when millions in the country were barred from meeting with friends and family — or even attending funerals for their loved ones.

"I have paid the fine and want to offer a full apology," Johnson said. "I understand the anger many will feel that I myself fell short when it came to observing the very rules which the government I lead had introduced to protect the public. I accept in all sincerity that people had the right to expect better."

Downing Street said Johnson was being sanctioned for attending a "gathering of two or more people indoors in the Cabinet Room at 10 Downing Street" on June 19, 2020. The event was a surprise birthday party for the prime minister.

London's Metropolitan Police force said it had issued at least 50 fines after investigating a dozen events held in 10 Downing St. and other government buildings.

Opponents, and some members of the governing Conservative Party, say John-

son should resign.

"Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak have broken the law and repeatedly lied to the British public," said Keir Starmer, leader of the opposition Labour Party. "The Conservatives are totally unfit to govern. Britain deserves better."

**Hackers disrupted:** Western law enforcement agencies have dismantled an online marketplace used to buy and sell hacked and stolen personal data belonging to millions of people, and have charged the platform's founder and chief administrator, officials announced Tuesday.

Authorities say the RaidForums website trafficked in hundreds of databases of sensitive data, including credit card and Social Security numbers and bank account information, that had been hacked or stolen from victims.

In addition to seizing three domains that hosted the website, officials have arrested 21-year-old Diogo Santos Coelho of Portugal, who prosecutors say controlled and administered the platform between 2015 and this past January, when he was taken into custody in the United Kingdom.

The U.S. is seeking his extradition to federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, on charges including conspiracy, access device fraud and aggravated identify.

**New York resignation:** New York Lt. Gov. Brian Benjamin resigned Tuesday in the wake of his arrest in a federal corruption investigation, Gov. Kathy Hochul said, creating a political crisis for her seven months after she selected Benjamin as a partner to make a fresh start in an office already rocked by scandal.

Benjamin, a Democrat, was



**Holy Week procession:** An image of Jesus is carried by Catholic faithful as they take part in La Resena procession Tuesday during Holy Week in Guatemala City. The procession began early in the morning with parishioners carrying a multitude of religious images and statues or bouquets of flowers. Good Friday and Easter are in a few days. **JOHAN ORDONEZ/GETTY-AFP**

accused in an indictment of participating in a scheme to obtain campaign contributions from a real estate developer in exchange for Benjamin's agreement to use his influence as a state senator to get a \$50,000 grant of state funds for a nonprofit organization the developer controlled.

Facing charges including bribery, fraud, conspiracy and falsification of records, Benjamin pleaded not guilty Tuesday at an initial appearance in Manhattan federal court. He was released and bail was set at \$250,000.

**S. Dakota impeachment:** The South Dakota House on Tuesday impeached state Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg over a 2020 car crash in which he killed a pedestrian but initially said he might have struck a deer or another large animal.

Ravnsborg, a Republican, is the first official to be impeached in South Dakota history. He will at least

temporarily be removed from office pending the historic Senate trial, where it takes a two-thirds majority to convict on impeachment charges.

Ravnsborg pleaded no contest last year to a pair of traffic misdemeanors in the crash, including making an illegal lane change. He has cast Joseph Boever's death as a tragic accident.

**Korean tensions:** North Korea is destroying a South Korean-owned golf course at a scenic mountain resort in the second confirmed case of South Korean assets being eliminated in an area where the rivals once ran a joint tour program, officials said Tuesday.

North Korea's demolition of South Korean-built facilities at its Diamond Mountain resort comes as ties between the countries remain strained over the North's recent series of high-profile missile tests.

Responding to queries by The Associated Press, Seoul's

Unification Ministry said it has confirmed North Korea is demolishing the resort in addition to a South Korean-owned hotel there.

The ministry said it urges North Korea to stop destroying the South Korean facilities. It demanded North Korea return to talks to address the issue.

The two Koreas jointly ran a tour project at the resort for about 10 years during an earlier era of inter-Korean detente.

**Nigeria violence:** An armed gang has killed more than 100 people in a remote part of northern Nigeria, survivors and local authorities said Tuesday.

The attackers targeted four villages in the Kanam area of Plateau State, the most recent in a series of attacks in Nigeria's north.

Such attacks in Nigeria's northern region have become frequent, especially between Fulani Muslims who are mostly cattle herders and Christian communities from

the Hausa and other ethnic groups who are mainly farmers.

The conflict over access to land and water has further worsened the sectarian division between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with its 206 million people deeply divided along religious lines.

**Salmonella outbreak:** European health officials investigating an outbreak of salmonella linked to chocolate Easter eggs that has sickened at least 150 children across the continent said Tuesday they suspect it is due to bad buttermilk in a Belgian factory.

In an assessment of the continuing outbreak, experts at the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control and the European Food Safety Authority said they had matched the same salmonella strain currently infecting people to samples taken from a factory in Belgium last December.

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# Experts: Asian big count misleading

US census masks great variation in who was counted

By Terry Tang and Mike Schneider  
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Jennifer Chau was astonished last month when the U.S. Census Bureau's report card on how accurately it counted the U.S. population in 2020 showed that Asian people were overcounted by the highest rate of any race or ethnic group.

The director of an Asian American advocacy group thought thousands of people would be missed — outreach activities had been scratched by the coronavirus pandemic, and she and her staff feared widespread language barriers and wariness of sharing information with the government could hinder participation.

They also thought recent attacks against Asian Americans could stir up fears within the Asian population, the fastest-growing race or ethnic group in the U.S.

"I'm honestly shocked," said Chau, director of the Arizona Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander For Equity Coalition.

But Chau and other advocates and academics also believe the overcounting of the Asian population by 2.6% in the once-a-decade U.S. head count may not be all that it seems on the surface. They say it likely masks great variation in who was counted among different Asian communities in the U.S. They also believe it could signal that biracial and multi-racial residents identified as Asian in larger numbers than in the past.

The specifics are difficult to determine because all Asian communities are grouped under the same race category in the census. This conceals the wide variety of income, education and health backgrounds between



Asian American advocacy group director Jennifer Chau works last week at her office in Tempe, Arizona. ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

subgroups and tends to blur characteristics unique to certain communities, some advocates said.

It may also perpetuate the "model minority" myth of Asians being affluent and well-educated.

"Asian Americans have the largest income inequality than any other racial groups in the U.S. and the overall overcount likely masks the experiences of Asian ethnic groups who were more vulnerable to being undercounted," said Aggie Yellow Horse, an assistant professor of Asian Pacific American Studies at Arizona State University.

Almost four dozen U.S. House members this month asked the Census Bureau to break down the accuracy of the count of Asian residents by subgroups. Asians in the U.S. trace their roots to more than 20 countries, with China and India having the largest representation. But the bureau has no plans to do so,

at least not in the immediate future.

"To really see how the Asian American community fared, you need lower-level geography to understand if there was an undercount or if certain communities fared better than others," said Terry Ao Minnis, senior director of census and voting programs at Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

Asians were overcounted by a higher rate than any other group. White residents who aren't Hispanic were overcounted by 0.6%. The Black population was undercounted by 3.3%, those who identified as some other race had a 4.3% undercount, almost 5% of the Hispanic population was missed and more than 5.6% of American Indians living on reservations were undercounted.

Civil rights leaders blamed the undercounts on hurdles created by the pandemic and political interference by then-President Donald

Trump's administration, which tried unsuccessfully to add a citizenship question to the census form and cut field operations short.

The census not only is used for determining how many congressional seats each state gets and for redrawing political districts; it helps determine how \$1.5 trillion a year in federal funding is allocated. Overcounts, which are revealed through a survey the bureau conducts apart from the census, occur when people are counted twice, such as college students being counted on campus and at their parents' homes.

In the 2020 census, 19.9 million residents identified as "Asian alone," a 35% increase from 2010. Another 4.1 million residents identified as Asian in combination with another race group, a 55% jump from 2010. Asians now make up more than 7% of the U.S. population.

Some of the growth by Asians in the 2020 census

may be rooted in the fluidity of how some, particularly those biracial or multiracial, report their identity on the census form, said Paul Ong, a professor emeritus of urban planning and Asian American Studies at UCLA.

"People change their identity from one survey to another, and this is much more prevalent among those who are multiracial or biracial," Ong said.

Lan Hoang, a Vietnamese American woman who works at the same coalition as Chau, listed her three young children as Asian, as well as white and Hispanic to represent her husband's background. She used the census as an opportunity to talk to them about the importance of identity, even reading them a kids' book about the head count.

"It talks about how important it is that you let others know that you're here, this is who you represent," Hoang said. "When I filled out (the form), they were totally

surprised. ... 'Yeah, you're three different things in one. You're special!'"

Conversations about declaring one's Asian background are especially meaningful given the anti-Asian hate brought on by the pandemic, Hoang said. Eight people, including six women of Asian descent, were fatally shot last year at Georgia massage businesses, and thousands more attacks against Asians have happened across the U.S.

Such factors may have led some multiracial people who ordinarily would have indicated on the census form that they were white, Black or some other race to instead select Asian, Ong said.

"When that happens, people who are multiracial go in two directions: They reject their minority identity or they embrace it," Ong said. "With the rise of anti-Asian hostility, it forced some multiracial Asians to select a single identity."

Another factor that may have contributed to the Asian overcount is the fact that young adult Asians were more likely to be in college than other racial or ethnic groups: 58% compared to 42% or less for young adults of other race or ethnic backgrounds. That may have led them to be counted twice, on campuses and at their parents' homes, where they went after college and universities closed because of the pandemic.

UCLA junior Lauren Chen spent most of her freshman year back home in Arizona in 2020. Her father included Chen on the household census form even though Census Bureau rules said she should have been counted at school. Chen has no idea if she was counted twice.

"UCLA was pretty swamped with trying to figure out how to get people their belongings. ... It was a very messy moment, and I don't think I knew anyone that got mail or anything like that," Chen said.



A woman makes her way past a power plant March 16 in Vinnytsia, Ukraine. Officials say Russian hackers tried to knock out power to millions of Ukrainians last week. RODRIGO ABD/AP

## WAR IN UKRAINE

# Ukraine says Russian hackers tried to shut down power grid

By Frank Bajak  
Associated Press

BOSTON — Russian military hackers attempted to knock out power to millions of Ukrainians last week in a long-planned attack but were foiled, Ukrainian government officials said Tuesday.

At one targeted high-voltage power station, the hackers succeeded in penetrating and disrupting part of the industrial control system, but people defending the station were able to prevent electrical outages, the Ukrainians said.

"The threat was serious, but it was prevented in a timely manner," a top Ukrainian cybersecurity official, Victor Zhora, told reporters through an interpreter. "It looks that we were very lucky."

The hackers from Russia's GRU military intelligence agency used an upgraded version of malware first seen in its successful 2016 attack that caused blackouts in Kyiv, officials said, that was customized to target multiple substations. They simultaneously seeded malware designed to wipe

out computer operating systems, hindering recovery.

Authorities did not specify how many substations were targeted or their location, citing security concerns, but a deputy energy minister, Farid Safarov, said "2 million people would have been without electricity supply if it was successful."

Zhora, deputy chair of the State Service of Special Communications, said the malware was programmed to knock out power Friday evening just as people returned home from work and switched on news reports.

He said that power grid networks were penetrated before the end of February, when Russia invaded, and that the attackers later uploaded the malware, dubbed Industroyer2. The malware succeeded in disrupting one component of the impacted power station's management systems, also known as SCADA systems.

Zhora would not offer further details or explain how the attack was defeated or which partners may have assisted directly in defeating

it. He did acknowledge the depth of international assistance Ukraine has received in identifying intrusions and the challenges of trying to rid government, power grid and telecommunications networks of attackers. The helpers include technicians from U.S. Cybercom-

mand. Cybercom was asked if it assisted in the emergency response but did not answer.

The Computer Emergency Response Team of Ukraine thanked Microsoft and the cybersecurity firm ESET for their assistance in dealing with the power grid attack in a bulletin posted online.

Officials said the attacks had been planned at least since March 23.

GRU hackers from a group that researchers call Sandworm twice successfully attacked Ukraine's power grid — in the winters of 2015 and 2016. U.S. prosecutors indicted six GRU officials in 2020 for using a previous version of the Industroyer malware to attack Ukraine's power grid by gaining control of electrical substation switches and circuit breakers.

## WAR IN UKRAINE

# Czechs offer free gun course, training to assist Ukrainians

By Karel Janicek  
Associated Press

BRNO, Czech Republic — Of the first four shots Olha Dembitska fired from an AK-47 assault rifle in her life, one hit the target.

"It's pretty difficult the first time," the 22-year-old Ukrainian woman acknowledged.

On this occasion, the target was the shape of a human body at a shooting range in the Czech Republic.

Next time, it might be for real, in Ukraine, and the target could be one of the Russian troops who have invaded her homeland.

Dembitska is one of at least 130 men and women who have undergone free-of-charge training for Ukrainians living in the Czech Republic who want to learn how to fight the invaders.

Almost none of the participants had any experience with weapons before war struck their homeland.

Since Russia launched its military offensive, Ukrainians from all parts of the country and elsewhere have been arriving in the Czech Republic's second-largest city, Brno, attracted by courses designed to teach them essentials and skills to safely handle rifles and inflict damage on their enemy.

Beside learning to shoot, the courses give them the basics about guns, movement around the battlefield and a lesson in providing first aid, something that can save lives if they're mobilized by their embattled country or decide to return home as volunteers to join the Ukrainian army.

They are all motivated.

"It's horrible," Dembitska said about the situation in her homeland. She gets her news from social media and from phone calls with a friend in the southern

city of Kherson, seized by Russian troops in the early stages of the invasion.

"She tells me everything. They haven't received humanitarian aid. It's a horror what the Russian soldiers are doing. I'm sick of it."

Michal Ratajsky, owner of CS Solutions, a security company that offers the training program at its base on the outskirts of Brno, located some 125 miles southeast of Prague, called it "our contribution to the help for Ukrainians."

"We view it as a morale boost we're giving them in this situation, an effort to show we're supporting them and that we will do for them what we can at the given moment," Ratajsky said. "That was our motivation and goal."

A crowdfunding campaign helped secure enough money for the ammunition, while his company provides the rest, including instructors, weapons and the shooting range.

Ratajsky said the three-hour training should be enough to introduce the Ukrainians to new, unfamiliar skills.

"We know that we don't make soldiers of them in those three hours," he said. "We try to do the maximum

for them in the time, with the focus on their safety."

Some of the participants

have returned for repeated

lessons. Some have come

from as far away as Vienna

in neighboring Austria.

Some took the course on

their way back to Ukraine

from Western Europe, Ratajsky said.

He said the Ukrainians

are united by anger about

the Russian aggression.

"They take it seriously

and want to do something

about it," he said.

He said that because

some 80% percent of troop

losses in a war like the one

in Ukraine are caused by

artillery and missiles, a

sense of self-preservation

and knowledge of first aid

might be more useful for

survival than shooting.

"We're aware of the

limits of what we can get

them ready for and make no

secret of it," Ratajsky said.

Yehor Nechyporenko,

38, who had traveled 160

miles from the town of

Mlada Boleslav to Brno for

the second time, said he is

helping refugees who have

arrived in the Czech Republic

but wants to be ready to

go back home to fight.

"It's very useful for me,"

he said of the training.

"I really like it. I need to learn

those things because I

didn't do military service."



An instructor trains Ukrainian nationals Sunday at a shooting range in Brno, Czech Republic. About 130 Ukrainians have taken the free, three-hour course. PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

## FROM PAGE ONE

GILBERT GOTTFRIED 1955-2022

## Independent, intentionally bizarre comedian's comedian

By Andrew Dalton  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Gilbert Gottfried, the actor and legendary stand-up comic known for his raw, scorched voice and crude jokes, has died. He was 67.

Gottfried died from a rare genetic muscle disease that can trigger a dangerously abnormal heartbeat, his publicist and longtime friend Glenn Schwartz said in a statement.

"In addition to being the most iconic voice in comedy, Gilbert was a wonderful husband, brother, friend and father to his two young children. Although today is a sad day for all of us, please keep laughing as loud as possible in Gilbert's honor," his family said in a statement posted on Twitter.

Gottfried was a fiercely independent and intentionally bizarre comedian's comedian, as likely to clear a room with anti-comedy as he was to kill it with his jokes.

He first came to national attention with frequent appearances on MTV in its early days and with a brief stint in the cast of "Saturday Night Live" in the 1980s. Gottfried also did frequent voice work for children's television and movies, most famously playing the parrot Iago in Disney's "Aladdin."

He was particularly fond of doing obscure and dated impressions for as long as he could milk them, including Groucho Marx, Bela Lugosi and Andrew "Dice" Clay. He would often do those voices as a guest on the Howard Stern show, prompting listeners by the dozens



Actor and stand-up comic Gilbert Gottfried, 67, died from a rare genetic muscle disease. JOHN SHEARER/INVISION 2012

to call in and beg Stern to throw him off.

In his early days at the club the Comedy Store in Hollywood, the managers would have him do his impression of then-little-known Jerry Seinfeld at the end of the night to get rid of lingering patrons.

Gottfried was especially beloved by his fellow comedians and performers.

"I am so sad to read about the passing of Gilbert Gottfried," actor Marlee Matlin said on Twitter. "Funny, politically incorrect but a softie on the inside. We met many times; he even pranked me on a plane, replacing my interpreter." (Gottfried bore a close resemblance to Matlin's American Sign Language interpreter Jack Jason.)

"Seinfeld" actor Jason Alexander tweeted that "Gilbert Gottfried made me laugh at times when laughter did not come easily. What a gift."

Gottfried was born in Brooklyn borough of New York, the son of a hardware

store owner and a stay-at-home mom. He began doing amateur stand-up at age 15.

He thought he was getting his big break when he landed a spot on "Saturday Night Live" alongside Eddie Murphy in 1980. But he was given little to do on the show and would last only 12 episodes. But he would find his own way, doing bits on MTV and as a both beloved and hated guest on talk shows. He had roles in "Beverly Hills Cop II" and the "Problem Child" films and presented bad movies as host of "USA Up All Night" from 1989 to 1998. And he had recurring voice roles on "Ren and Stimpy," "The Fairly OddParents" and several spin-offs of "Aladdin."

Gottfried's schtick wasn't always popular.

In 2011, Aflac Inc. fired him as the voice of the duck in its commercials over a tasteless tweet the comic sent about the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

"To me, funny is funny," he said last month. "I'll regret a bit I do that just doesn't get a laugh, because it's not funny or an ad lib that doesn't work. But if it gets a laugh, I feel like, I'm the comedian, and that's my job."

He made many notorious contributions to televised roasts, his harshness and love of old-timey stand-up style making him a perfect contributor. He took famously cruel and relentless jabs at roasters, including George Takei and Roseanne.

Gottfried is survived by his wife, Dara, sister Karen, daughter Lily, 14, and son Max, 12.

Judge  
from Page 1

others about how judges are appointed and, once appointed, how they are held accountable. The Supreme Court's intervention in the standoff is taking place as the legislature once again embarks on the mostly secret process of appointing a large number of Superior Court nominees chosen by Gov. Ned Lamont. The legislature's judiciary committee approved 22 new judges earlier this year and Lamont is expected to submit another 10 nominees before the session ends in early May.

The Supreme Court decided last year to take charge of the Bruno case and decide what, if any discipline is appropriate. It is the first time the court has embarked on a process that could lead to dismissal of a judge, a constitutional position with protections greater than those of civil service employees.

Under the high court's order, Devlin is permitted to appoint assistants to work on the investigation, all of whom will have access to the volumes of sealed records and medical reports already on file.

"In addition, the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, all Connecticut judges, and all judicial branch employees, shall promptly and fully cooperate with the investigator and his designees in connection with the investigation, and shall provide to them any records or other information upon request," the order states.

Bruno, who remains a salaried judge in spite of her years-long absence, also is ordered to "fully and promptly cooperate with the investigation" including requests by Devlin or his staff for interviews, records in possession of third parties, and records in possession of the state Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and the state Judicial Review Council.

Bruno previously filed a complaint with the Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities, claiming that she is being discriminated against on the basis of a disability because administrators of the court system will not accommodate her by providing her with a stress-free work environment. Chief Court Administrator Patrick Carroll was required by law to refer Bruno to the Judicial

Review Council, the secret agency that adjudicates routine complaints against judges, when she refused his request to submit to an independent medical examination.

Should Bruno fail to comply with the Supreme Court order, she will face "further disciplinary proceedings," according to the order.

Devlin is instructed to keep the investigation secret and submit his findings when complete to the justices, who will decide at that point what further steps are required. One section of the court's order gives Devlin the authority to explore "alternative resolutions to the issues underlying this investigation," a suggestion that he can negotiate Bruno's resignation.

The justices declined to discuss the order. Bruno's lawyer, Jacques Parenteau, said she will cooperate.

"I think we are in an unprecedented area here," Parenteau said. "Judge Bruno fully intends to comply with the order of the court."

Bruno and the judges of the state judicial branch have been at odds for years over her attendance and job performance, according to internal agency correspondence. The precise nature of the dispute remains something of a mystery, because records and correspondence describing the medical condition or conditions underlying the disagreement are sealed.

She last reported to work on Nov. 14, 2019. In a filing with the court she claims the "stressful work environment related to the hostility toward my medical conditions and appointments to treat ongoing health issues reached a peak" two weeks before then, when she left work to see her primary care physician about an undisclosed medical condition. By that point, the judicial branch administration had become concerned about absences by her and other judges and had initiated an audit.

Bruno alleged in the filing that, "While I was in the doctor's office Judge (Anna) Ficeto continued the harassment directed by Chief Court Administrator Carroll in leaving a voice mail on my phone that was critical of my taking time to attend to health issues."

According to Bruno, Ficeto, who was supervising the Waterbury Courthouse, said she had become aware from

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\*\*Example: Project cost \$10,800. Maximum loan term: 120 months. Loan amount \$9,720. Down payment \$1,080. Monthly Payment: \$85.11. \*Daniels will double the actual cash value of the EnergizeCT rebate. Offer is for one standard compressor unit and two standard Mitsubishi Ductless Split head units. EnergizeCT offers an immediate consumer rebate of up to \$500 depending on equipment selected. Minimum size restriction and SEER ratings apply. Not available on previous sales. \*\*Consumer must make monthly payments in first four months. Daniels will reimburse customer cash equivalent of up to \$1,000 – i.e. first four months. Amount is dependent upon the size and model of the system purchased and the actual monthly payment agreed to. 4 Months Free offer valid for sales made during the month of April, 2022 only. Maximum value: \$1,000. See Daniels Energy representative for complete details.

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# BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

## Inflation up 8.5% in past year, highest since 1981

Bottlenecked supply chains, Russia's invasion of Ukraine contributing factors

By Paul Wiseman, Anne D'Innocenzo and Mae Anderson  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Inflation soared over the past year at its fastest pace in more than 40 years, with costs for food, gasoline, housing and other necessities squeezing American consumers and wiping out the pay raises that many people have received.

The Labor Department said Tuesday that its consumer price index jumped 8.5% in March from 12 months earlier, the sharpest year-over-year increase since 1981.

Prices have been driven up by bottlenecked supply chains, robust consumer demand and disruptions to global food and energy markets worsened by Russia's war against Ukraine. From February to March, inflation rose 1.2%, the biggest month-to-month jump since 2005. Gasoline prices drove more than half that increase.

Across the economy, the year-over-year price spikes were widespread. Gasoline prices rocketed 48% in the past 12 months. Used car prices have soared 35%, though

they actually fell in February and March. Bedroom furniture is up 14.7%, men's suits and coats 14.5%.

Grocery prices have jumped 10%, including 18% increases for both bacon and oranges.

Investors focused on a bright spot in the report and sent stock prices up: So-called core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, rose just 0.3% from February to March, the smallest monthly rise since September. Over the past year, though, core prices are up 6.5%, the most since 1982.

"The inflation fire is still out of control," said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at the research firm FWDBONDS LLC.

The March inflation numbers were the first to fully capture the surge in gasoline prices that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24. Moscow's attacks have triggered far-reaching Western sanctions against the Russian economy and disrupted food and energy markets. According to AAA, the average price of a gallon of gasoline — \$4.10 — is up 43% from a year ago,

though it's dipped in the past couple of weeks.

The acceleration of inflation has occurred against the backdrop of a booming job market and a solid overall economy. In March, employers added a robust 431,000 jobs — the 11th straight month in which they've added at least 400,000. For 2021, they added 6.7 million jobs, the most in any year on record. In addition, job openings are near record highs, layoffs are at their lowest point since 1968 and the unemployment rate is just above a half-century low.

Economists note that as the economy has emerged from the depths of the pandemic, consumers have been gradually broadening their spending beyond goods to include more services.

A result is that high inflation, which at first had reflected a mainly shortage of goods has been emerging in services, too, like travel, health care and entertainment.

Airline fares, for instance, have jumped an average of nearly 24% in the past 12 months. The average cost of a hotel room is up 29%.

## Waiving of ethanol rule could lower gas prices

By Will Weissert  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden visited corn-rich Iowa on Tuesday to announce he'll suspend a federal rule preventing the sale of higher ethanol blend gasoline this summer, as his administration tries to tamp down prices at the pump that have spiked during Russia's war with Ukraine.

Most gasoline sold in the U.S. is blended with 10% ethanol. The Environmental Protection Agency will issue an emergency waiver to allow widespread sale of 15% ethanol blend that is usually prohibited between June 1 and Sept. 15 because of concerns that it adds to smog in high temperatures.

Senior Biden administration officials said the move will save drivers an average of 10 cents per gallon at 2,300 gas stations. Those stations are mostly in the Midwest and the South, including Texas, according to industry groups.

Administration officials said the EPA has begun analyzing the "emergency" step of allowing more E15 gasoline sales for the summer and determined it is not likely to have significant on-the-ground air quality impacts. That's despite some environmentalists long arguing that more ethanol in gas increases pollution, especially during warmer summer months.

Biden announced the move at a biofuel company in Menlo, west of Des Moines.

Iowa is the country's largest producer of corn, key to producing ethanol.

The waiver is another effort to help ease global energy markets that have been rocked since Russia invaded Ukraine.

Last month, the president announced the U.S. will release 1 million barrels of oil per day from the nation's strategic petroleum reserve over the next six months.

### BUSINESS BRIEFING

## Sellers on Etsy protest fee hike

NEW YORK — Some vendors on Etsy are halting sales of their items on the site for a week to protest a hike in the fees the crafts e-commerce marketplace charges them.

Since Monday, Etsy sellers must pay a 6.5% commission on each transaction, up from the 5% in place since 2018.

A protest organizer, Kristi Cassidy, said thousands of Etsy sellers — a fraction of the site's 5.3 million vendors — have halted sales.

Cassidy and others are also taking issue with an advertising policy implemented early in 2020 that requires sellers making at least \$10,000 a year on Etsy and who have their products advertised on Etsy's offsite social media and search engine partners to pay a 12% advertising fee on sales made through the ads.

## Sri Lanka stops debt payments

Sri Lanka suspended payments on its international debt Tuesday, effectively putting the small island nation in default as it plunges deeper into an economic crisis.

Rising food and fuel prices as well as a shortage of essential goods and medicine have forced tens of thousands of protesters onto the streets in recent weeks demanding the ouster of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The Rajapaksa family, with one brother serving as president and a second as prime minister, has called for patience, saying the government is seeking relief from neighbors and working with the International Monetary Fund to restructure the country's debt.

Sri Lanka's outstanding foreign debt stands at about \$50 billion, or about 60% of its annual economic output.



People walk through the parking lot of a Kmart on Monday in Avenel, N.J. The store is scheduled to close Saturday. SETH WENIG/AP

## One-time giant nears the end

Kmart once had more than 2,000 retail stores in the US; now it's down to a handful

By David Porter  
Associated Press

AVENEL, N.J. — The familiar sights and sounds are still there: the scuffed and faded floor tiles, the relentless beige-on-beige color scheme, the toddlers' clothes and refrigerators — and pretty much everything in between.

There's even a canned recording that begins, "Attention, Kmart shoppers" — except it's to remind folks about COVID-19 precautions, not to alert them to a flash sale over in ladies' lingerie like days of old.

Many of the shelves are bare, though, at the Kmart in Avenel, picked over by bargain hunters as the store prepares to close its doors for good Saturday.

Once it shutters, the number of Kmarts in the country — once well over 2,000 — will be down to a handful of stores in the U.S. and its territories, according to multiple reports, in a retail world now dominated by Walmart, Target and Amazon.

In its heyday, Kmart sold product lines endorsed by celebrities Martha Stewart

and Jaclyn Smith, sponsored NASCAR auto races and was mentioned in movies including "Rain Man" and "Beetlejuice."

The chain cemented a place in American culture with its Blue Light Specials, a flashing blue orb affixed to a pole that would beckon shoppers to a flash sale in progress. Part of its success was due to its early adoption of layaway programs, which allowed customers who lacked credit to reserve items and pay for them in installments.

Kmart had a little bit of everything: You could shop for your kids' back-to-school supplies, get your car tuned up and grab a meal without leaving.

"Kmart was part of America," said Michael Lisicky, a Baltimore-based author who has written several books on U.S. retail history. "Everybody went to Kmart, whether you liked it or not. They had everything. You had toys. You had sporting goods. You had candy. You had stationery. It was something for everybody."

Kmart's decline has been slow but steady, brought about by years of falling sales, changes in shopping habits and Walmart, which coincidentally began its life within months of Kmart's founding in 1962.

Struggling to compete with Walmart's low prices and Target's trendier offerings, Kmart filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy

protection in 2002 — becoming the largest U.S. retailer to take that step — and said it would close more than 250 stores.

A few years later, hedge fund executive Edward Lampert combined Sears and Kmart and pledged to return them to their former greatness, but the recession and the rising dominance of Amazon contributed in derailing those goals. Sears filed for Chapter 11 in 2018 and has a handful of stores left in the U.S. where it once had thousands.

It didn't have to end this way, according to Mark Cohen, director of retail studies at Columbia University in New York and former CEO of Sears Canada. Trying to compete with Walmart on price was a foolish strategy, he said, and Lampert was criticized for not having a retail background and appearing more interested in stripping the assets of the two chains for their cash value.

"It's a study in greed, avarice and incompetence," Cohen said. "Sears should have never gone away; Kmart was in worse shape, but not fatally so. And now they're both gone."

"Retailers fall by the wayside sometimes because they're selling things people don't want to buy," he said. "In the case of Kmart, everything they used to sell, people are buying, but they're buying it from Walmart and Target."

## CFPB sues TransUnion for ignoring order

By Ken Sweet  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is suing TransUnion and one of its longtime executives alleging that the credit company completely "disregarded" a previous order from five years ago to stop selling dubious credit-related products and marketing.

TransUnion entered into an agreement with the CFPB in 2017, agreeing to pay \$13.9 million in restitution and \$3 million in civil penalties, saying it would stop trying to sell customers credit monitoring subscription products and would provide a clear way for a customer to cancel a subscription if they no longer wanted it.

Instead of taking actions to stop these practices, the CFPB alleged Tuesday that former TransUnion executive John Danaher, who left the company in 2021, looked for ways to keep the subscription revenues flowing. This included keeping a vague "checkbox" on the TransUnion website that signed up customers for products that they may not have wanted.

This often happened when a customer used annualcreditreport.com, the Federal Government's portal that gives every American access to their credit report from each of the bureaus free once a year.

The CFPB said that roughly 18% of TransUnion's annual revenue came from these services, which means it would have been a substantial hit to the Chicago

company's bottom line if it were to stop the program entirely.

"TransUnion is an out-of-control repeat offender that believes it is above the law," CFPB Director Rohit Chopra said. "I am concerned that TransUnion's leadership is either unwilling or incapable of operating its businesses lawfully."

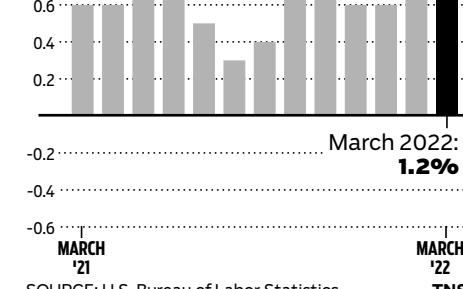
In a statement TransUnion called the CFPB's lawsuit "meritless" and said that regulators with the CFPB refused to meet with TransUnion to resolve this matter in the weeks and months leading up to the suit.

"We have been in compliance with our obligations, and we remain in compliance with the consent order today," the company said.

### Consumer Price Index

In March, the consumer price index increased 1.2 percent.

#### CPI ONE-MONTH PERCENT CHANGE Seasonally adjusted



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

TNS

## BUSINESS



Figures released by New Jersey gambling regulators last week show Atlantic City's casino earnings have topped the level they were at before the pandemic hit. **WAYNE PARRY/AP**

## Atlantic City casino earnings surpass prepandemic levels

By Wayne Parry  
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Atlantic City's casino earnings have surpassed where they were before the coronavirus pandemic broke out, but most of the improvement is due to the two newest casinos.

Figures released last week by the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement show eight of the nine casinos posted a gross operating profit last year.

Collectively, the nine casinos earned \$766.8 million in 2021, far eclipsing the \$117.5 million they made in 2020.

But their 2021 performance also exceeded that of 2019, the year before the coronavirus outbreak, when the casinos collectively earned nearly \$594 million.

Gross operating profit reflects earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and other expenses, and is a widely accepted measure of profitability in the Atlantic City casino industry.

Jane Bokunewicz, director of the Lloyd Levenson Institute at Stockton University, which studies

the Atlantic City casino industry, said the improving profit margins are encouraging for the casinos.

"This should help operators as they seek to make up significant reductions in (gross operating profit) from 2020 and finance the major capital improvement projects currently underway at properties throughout the city," she said.

Joe Lupo, president of the Hard Rock casino, said the increase in gross operating profit compared to 2019 is due almost totally to the performances of his casino and the Ocean Casino Resort.

"You take Hard Rock and Ocean out and the other seven properties are flat since 2019," he said. "That's discouraging."

Only Bally's reported an operating loss for 2021 (\$13 million), but that was half the size of their loss a year earlier.

The Borgata had the largest operating profit at \$174 million, up from \$650,000 a year earlier. The Tropicana earned \$118.7 million, up from \$18.7 million a year earlier.

Hard Rock earned nearly \$107 million, up

from nearly \$11 million in 2020; Harrah's earned over \$99 million, up from \$8.5 million a year earlier; the Ocean casino earned over \$91 million last year, up from \$21.8 million in 2020, and Caesars earned \$62 million, up from \$10.4 million a year earlier.

Golden Nugget earned \$35.5 million, up from \$7.2 million a year earlier, and Resorts earned \$27.6 million, compared with an operating loss of \$10.5 million a year earlier.

For internet-only entities, Golden Nugget Online Gaming earned \$32.8 million in 2021, up over 72% from a year earlier. Caesars Interactive Entertainment NJ earned \$16.5 million, down nearly 17% from a year earlier, and Resorts Digital earned just under \$15 million, down over 29% from a year earlier.

Net revenue for the casinos was just over \$3 billion in 2021, a statistic that includes casino revenue (minus promotional allowances such as free play) plus revenue from hotel rooms, food and beverage operations and other sources. It was up from \$1.8 billion in 2020.

## Navy plans to decommission some of its newest warships

By David Sharp  
Associated Press

PORLAND, Maine — The Navy that once wanted smaller, speedy warships to chase down pirates has made a speedy pivot to Russia and China — and many of those recently built ships could be retired.

The Navy wants to decommission nine ships in the Freedom-class of littoral combat ships — warships that cost about \$4.5 billion altogether to build.

The Navy contends in its budget proposal that the move would free up \$50 million per ship annually for other priorities. But it would also reduce the size of the fleet that's already surpassed by China in sheer numbers, something that could cause members of Congress to balk.

Adm. Mike Gilday, chief of naval operations, defended the proposal that emphasizes long-range weapons and modern warships, while shedding other ships ill equipped to face current threats.

"We need a ready, capable, lethal force more than we need a bigger force that's less ready, less lethal, and less capable," he said last week at the Navy League's Sea-Air-Space symposium in Maryland.

All told, the Navy wants to scrap 24 ships, including five marine cruisers and two Los Angeles-class submarines, as part of its cost-cutting needed to maintain the existing fleet and build modern warships.

Those cuts surpass the proposed nine ships to be built.

Most of them are older vessels. However, the littoral combat ships that are targeted are young. The oldest of them is 10 years old.

The Navy envisioned fast, highly maneuverable warships capable of operating in near-shore, littoral waters when it announced



The USS Milwaukee, a Freedom-class of littoral combat ship, cruises as an unmanned aerial vehicle hovers during flight operations in the Atlantic Ocean. **U.S. NAVY 2019**

the program a few months after Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The ships topped 50 mph — fast enough to chase down pirates — and utilized steerable waterjets instead of conventional propellers.

The ships were supposed to be made versatile through plug-and-play mission modules for surface combat, mine-sweeping operations or anti-submarine warfare. But those mission modules were beset by problems, and the anti-submarine capability was canceled in the new budget.

And what about that speed?

The fastest ship can't outrun missiles, and firing up those marine turbines for an extra burst of speed turned the ships into gas guzzlers, analysts said. Early versions also were criticized as too lightly armed and armored to survive combat.

The speedy Freedom-class ships proposed for decommissioning feature a traditional steel hull. That entire class of ships suffers from a propulsion defect that will be costly to repair.

The Navy proposes keeping a second variant, the aluminum Independence class.

Sen. Jim Inhofe of Okla-

homa, the ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the program was plagued by troubles from the start, and that "moving forward the Navy must avoid similar acquisition disasters."

Rep. Elaine Luria, D-Va., was more blunt, tweeting that it "sucks" to be decommissioning so many ships, especially newer ones.

"The Navy owes a public apology to American taxpayers for wasting tens of billions of dollars on ships they now say serve no purpose," she said.

In the Navy's defense, threats shifted swiftly from the Cold War to the war on terror to the current Great Power Competition in which Russia and China are asserting themselves, said Thompson, from the Lexington Institute.

In the end, the Navy may be content with smaller numbers of Freedom-class ships for maritime security and small surface combatant operations, said Bryan Clark, defense analyst at the Hudson Institute.

Congress must sign off on the Navy's proposal to decommission ships ahead of their projected service life.

## MARKET RUNDOWN

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

**DOW**  
34,220.36 -87.72

**10-YR T-BOND**  
2.72% -.05

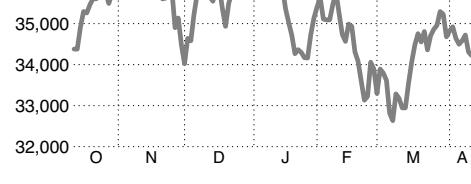
**GOLD**  
\$1,972.10 +27.80



### Dow Jones Industrials

Close: 34,220.36

Change: -87.72 (-0.3%)



### Domestic Indexes

**CLOSE** **CHG.** **YTD**

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	34,220.36	-87.72	-5.83%
DOW Trans.	14,558.16	+30.96	-11.65%
DOW Util.	1,062.26	+4.23	+8.31%
NYSE Comp.	16,465.99	-68.21	-4.07%
Nasdaq Comp.	13,371.57	-40.38	-14.53%
S&P 500	4,397.45	-15.08	-7.74%
S&P 400	2,602.25	-3.49	-8.44%
Wilshire 5000	44,124.79	-86.91	-8.95%
Russell 2000	1,986.94	+6.62	-11.51%

### Commodities

#### FUELS

**CLOSE** **PREV.** **YTD**

Crude Oil (bbl) 100.60 94.29 +33.76%

Natural Gas (mm btu) 6.68 6.64 +79.09%

Unleaded Gas (gal) 3.15 3.00 +41.53%

#### METALS

**CLOSE** **PREV.** **YTD**

Gold (oz) 1,972.10 1,944.30 +7.91%

Silver (oz) 25.73 24.98 +10.28%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

#### Foreign Exchange

**ForEx in U.S. \$** **U.S. \$ in ForEx**

Britain 1.3005 .7690

Canada .7914 1.2636

China .1571 6.3661

Euro 1.0830 .9234

Japan .007982 125.28

Mexico .050458 19.8185

#### Money Rates

**CLOSE** **PREV.** **CLOSE WK.**

Prime rate 3.50 3.50

3-mo. T-Bill 0.75 0.66

6-mo. T-Bill 1.20 1.13

5-yr T-Note 2.66 2.69

10-yr T-Note 2.72 2.54

30-yr T-Bond 2.83 2.57

#### Global Markets

**CLOSE** **CHG.** **%CHG.** **%YTD**

Frankfurt 14,124.95 -67.83 -.48% -11.08%

London 7,576.66 -41.65 -.55% +2.60%

Hong Kong 21,319.13 +110.83 +.52% -8.88%

Nikkei 26,334.98 -486.54 -1.81% -8.53%

### Stocks of Local Interest

#### STOCK (TICKER)

**CLOSE** **CHG.** **%CHG.**

STOCK (TICKER) **CLOSE** **CHG.** **%CHG.**

AMC Entertainment A (AMC) 17.42 -1.30 -36.0

AT&T Inc (T) 19.56 -.07 -20.5

Adv Micro Dev (AMD) 95.10 -2.27 -33.9

Agile Therapeutics (AGRX) .19 +.06 -61.5

American Airlines Gp (AAL) 17.13 +.16 -4.6

Amphenol Corp (APH) 71.80 +.06 -17.9

Apple Inc (AAPL) 167.66 +1.91 -5.6

Aterian Inc (ATER) 5.00 +.96 +21.7

Avangrid Inc (AGR) 48.78 +.30 -2.2

Bank of America (BAC) 39.17 -.42 -12.0

Barnes Group (B) 36.27 -.12 -22.2

BioCardia Inc (BCDA) 1.99 -.16 +2.6

BitNile Holdings Inc (NILE) .54 -.03 -54.5

Booking Holdings (BKNG) 2181.38 +12.17 -9.1

Brist Myr Sqb (BMY) 76.55 +.05 +22.8

CVS Health Corp (CVS) 104.64 +.19 +1.4

Carnival Corp (CCL) 18.51 -.03 -8.0

Carrier Global Corp (CARR) 41.78 -.66 -23.0

Charter Commun (CHTR) 549.12 -10.79 -15.8

Cigna Corp (CI) 254.82 +.70 +11.0

Cisco Syst (CSCO) 51.82 -.106 -18.2

Comcast Corp A (CMCSA) 47.25 -.36 -6.1

Disney (DIS) 130.84 +.19 -15.5

EMCOR Group Inc (EME) 114.07 +1.19 -10.5

Ethan Allen (ET

**Helen Bennett**  
Executive Editor  
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# OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

## Liberalism might need a wolf at the door



**Ross Douthat**

The idea that Vladimir Putin's war against Ukraine would be a restorative tonic for Western liberalism, touted hopefully in the first few weeks of war, has taken sharp blows in recent days.

First came the election in Hungary, where Viktor Orbán's conservative populist government won a sweeping popular majority, despite — or, more likely, because of — Orbán's relative dovish approach to the struggle in Ukraine. Then came the presidential election polling out of France, where Marine Le Pen is climbing in second-round polls, threatening Emmanuel Macron with a shocking upset.

There is no sign as yet that the war has prompted a vast revulsion against nationalism or populism, a stampede back to the liberal establishment.

Another possibility, however, is that the Ukraine war could help the liberal establishment in the long run, by encouraging an internal reassessment of what liberalism itself should seek to be.

For example, a writer who seemed overly hopeful about the liberal-revival scenario in the first days of the war, Francis Fukuyama, has now written a searching essay for *Foreign Affairs* on why "liberalism needs the nation," arguing that the heroic resistance of the Ukrainians should teach liberals a lesson about the virtues of national identity.

"With their bravery," he writes, the Ukrainians "have made clear that citizens are willing to die for liberal ideals, but only when those ideals are embedded in a country they can call their own." The war has thus been a partial rebuke to the fantasy of a pure cosmopolitanism, of a liberalism that transcends borders, languages and specific histories. And it has offered a case study in how the nation-state, its loves and loyalties, can unite a disparate population around a common cause in a way that no supranational institution has ever been able to achieve.

The challenge, though, is that the "sense of national purpose" Fukuyama is praising in Ukraine depends on an external enemy, a wolf at the door, and you cannot simply will such an enemy into being. Whereas most of the peacetime sources of national solidarity he cites, from food and sports to literary traditions, are somewhat thinner things. And one of the potentially thicker

forces, a sense of religious unity within a liberal order, Fukuyama rules out: In a pluralist society, "the idea of restoring a shared moral tradition defined by religious belief is a nonstarter," leading only to sectarianism and violence if applied.

Certainly you cannot impose strict religious uniformity upon a pluralist democracy. But the liberal order in America, at least, long relied for solidarity and purpose on a softer religious consensus, a flexible religious center, based on Protestant Christianity and then expanding to a more ecumenical but still biblically rooted vision. From the 19th century through the civil rights era, this shared worldview supplied not just a generic unity but a constant moral touchstone for would-be reformers, a metaphysical horizon for the entire American project.

Here Fukuyama's essay might be usefully supplemented by my New York Times colleague Ezra Klein's recent meditation on how Western liberalism appears when seen through the eyes of its enemies — meaning not just Putinism, with its spurious Christian justifications for aggressive war, but certain radical-right philosophers who have rejected liberalism and Christianity together, seeing the latter as the original source of liberalism's egalitarianism, its attention to the poor and marginalized,

and its restless quest for universal dignity.

The religious right proved too conservative and parochial for a diverse and liberalizing country, and it cracked up with George W. Bush's presidency. The liberal Christianity of Barack Obama and Joe Biden, while in certain ways better suited to hold the religious center, lacks internal vitality and is easily subsumed into a mixture of pantheism and gnosticism, with its moral vision supplied by a progressive activism that's intolerant in its own distinctive way. These failures have left us with a spiritual competition between an ascendant wokeness and a resentful Christian nationalism, which isn't likely to supply unity or solidarity to anyone.

But notably, throughout these culture wars, liberalism's inner party, its intellectual elite, has retained a conception of itself as resolutely secular, persistently imagining a perfected, post-religious liberal order that can establish solidarity and purpose without any of the old American appeals to Providence or nature's God.

It will be a sign that liberalism is ready to confront its present challenges, all the unhappiness of its citizens and children, when that illusion is finally put away.

*Douthat is a columnist for The New York Times.*

## How did Kushner firm get \$2 billion?

**By Timothy L. O'Brien**

Bloomberg Opinion

Jared Kushner's new private equity firm got \$2 billion from Saudi Arabia because maybe that's how you can cash in when your investing experience is slender but your father-in-law may wind up back in the White House. It's also possible that you can get billions for a firm with no track record because the White House did favors for the Saudis when your father-in-law still occupied the Oval Office.

It's probably a mix of both.

Regardless, it's certainly not a reflection of Kushner's investing prowess. Before entering the White House as an adviser to former President Donald Trump, Kushner, 41, inherited wealth and his first adult job from his father, then botched his biggest gambit: vastly overpaying for a Fifth Avenue skyscraper soon before financial and real estate markets tanked.

The Saudis' stake in Kushner is also a reminder of the gargantuan financial conflicts of interest that plagued the Trump clan throughout its White House stay and continue to seep into its post-Washington dealmaking. And, of course, national security hazards run through all of this.

Is it that easy to secure the allegiance and foreign policy mindshare of an influential White House adviser?

Yes, it is. At least in the Trump era.

"It's just a complete free-for-all," said Walter Shaub, who was an outspoken critic of financial conflicts in the Trump White House before resigning as director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics. "The real concern here is that the public has no way of knowing exactly what favors someone like Kushner may have done for the Saudis."

While the federal government has taken steps in recent years to rein in the ability of former government officials to monetize their service in Washington, lucrative loopholes abound. The only professional restrictions Kushner faces, for example, involve him speaking to the federal govern-



Then-President Donald Trump listens to son-in-law Jared Kushner, a senior adviser, in the Oval Office. GETTY-AFP 2020

ment. He can still speak to and work with any foreign government he desires — such as the Saudis.

Kushner has company.

Former Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has also raised money for his investment fund from the Saudis and other Middle Eastern countries he courted when he was a powerful financial regulator.

Are those investments payoffs? It's impossible to get into the heads of all of the participants, but the fact pattern surrounding how the Trump White House intersected with the Saudis is telling.

The Trump administration coddled Saudi Arabia even after ample evidence surfaced that the country had orchestrated the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Mnuchin met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman after the killing. The prince is chairman of the Saudi fund backing Mnuchin's new venture. The Trump White House also engineered arms deals with the Saudis and the United Arab Emirates, despite congressional opposition, and it backed both countries in their controversial interventions in Yemen's civil war.

During his White House years, Kushner cultivated close ties with Prince Moham-

med, offering him advice on how to handle fallout from Khashoggi's murder. The two men communicated with each other outside of formal government channels, using the text messaging platform WhatsApp to stay in touch. The relationship set off alarms among career national security staff members, but it apparently never cooled. A panel that vets how the Saudi sovereign wealth fund invests its money raised concerns about backing Kushner's new venture, Affinity Partners, according to The New York Times. It was overruled by the fund's board — which Prince Mohammed sits on.

The panel had ample reasons to worry about Kushner, according to documents the Times uncovered. It cited the "inexperience" of Kushner's team and the risk of losing a lot of money. The panel's due diligence examination of Affinity found it "unsatisfactory in all aspects." It thought Kushner was charging excessive fees and that a partnership with his fund posed "public relations risks."

Yet the Saudis still gave Kushner \$2 billion — probably because he represents an insurance policy for them. It's a wager on retaining future access, not on securing investment expertise in the present.

Shaub thinks deals like this show how necessary it is to have an emoluments policy governing the business practices of former government officials. "It's extremely dangerous," he told me. "But our ethics laws are in terrible shape overall. They're weak across all branches of our government."

Shaub says that the Biden administration hasn't done enough to tighten ethics standards, largely because the financial gravy train is often irresistible to many who pass through Washington, regardless of their party. When Trump came to Washington, he famously campaigned on the promise he would "drain the swamp" of lobbyists and other kindred spirits. But Trump was so financially conflicted himself that was always going to be unlikely. Soon before he left the White House, Trump revoked his own requirement that former federal employees refrain for five years from lobbying agencies in which they once worked.

Trump didn't drain the swamp. He just filled it with bigger alligators — with guys like Kushner.

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## Republicans have to tell voters what is on their agenda

**By Ramesh Ponnuru**

Bloomberg Opinion

Mitch McConnell knew this would happen.

For months, the Senate Republican leader had been telling anyone who would listen — other senators, party donors, even the occasional pundit — that the party should not run on a detailed agenda during the midterm campaign this fall. Republicans were already positioned to do well.

Why hand the Democrats a chance to launch attacks on a GOP agenda?

Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., didn't agree. He released an "11 Point Plan" that includes, he says, 128 policies. (That number is padded: Treating socialism "as an enemy combatant which aims to destroy our prosperity and freedom," for instance, is not a policy.)

Sure enough, Democrats found vulnerabilities: chiefly the plan's insistence that "all Americans should pay some income tax to have skin in the game, even if a small amount." Since, as the plan notes, "over half of Americans pay no income tax," that plank sounds like a tax increase for a majority of the country. Another Scott idea

the Democrats are happy to publicize is to require all federal legislation to lapse after five years — which, they say, would put Social Security and Medicare in danger.

Democrats have attempted to present Scott's ideas as a project of the entire Republican Party, a task made easier by the fact that Scott is the chairman of the Republicans' Senate campaign arm. (He says he released the plan in his capacity as an individual senator, but nobody cares.) White House press secretary Jen Psaki touted that the "Senate GOP plan" would be "the biggest tax hike of the century."

Scott defended his plan in the *Wall Street Journal*: "Working Americans already pay taxes on their income, and retirees have paid plenty. The change we need is to require those who are able-bodied but won't work to pay a small amount so we're all in this together."

He is not, he says, treating the tens of millions of Americans who are retired, or who pay payroll taxes but not income taxes, as freeloaders. That position is more defensible, politically and intellectually, than his original one, but it is a change. Only by including both groups can you say

"over half of Americans" are non-payers.

The upshot: Scott is on defense, Democrats are talking about his plan more than his fellow Republicans are, and the "old Crow" — that's what Donald Trump calls McConnell — has some reason for crowing.

But Scott also has something important right. A party seeking power has a moral obligation to give voters a sense of how it would wield that power. That doesn't mean Republicans have to announce a list of 128 policies they want to push for. It does mean that they should share their thoughts about their most important priorities for the federal government.

Some, even many, of those priorities could be negative: We're going to stop the Democrats from raising taxes. (Actually, the Democrats are doing a pretty good job of stopping themselves at the moment.) Others might require more action. Republicans have been curiously quiet about extending the many provisions of their own 2017 tax reform that are set to expire in the next few years. That issue didn't make Scott's list; it should have.

Public concern about inflation is rising, and Republicans generally say that Biden's

spending is partly to blame. It's a reasonable criticism. It's also reasonable to ask what they would have the government do about inflation, or about spending. They're mostly not saying. The section of Scott's plan about the economy does not even mention inflation.

The debate between McConnell and Scott, then, is narrow. McConnell explicitly denies that Republicans need to run on policies; Scott implicitly denies that they need to think much about them. The sides of the argument bolster each other. McConnell's stance creates a Republican policy vacuum that individual senators are tempted to fill, even with ill-considered ideas. When the poorly vetted ideas emerge, Republicans conclude that McConnell was right all along.

McConnell is winning this argument, which is probably for the best for his party's electoral fortunes this year. Whether it's in the party's, or the country's, long-term interest: That's a different question.

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**OBITUARIES BY TOWN**

<b>Bristol</b>	<b>New Britain</b>
Wilfredo Hernandez	John A. Simmons
Rose Szandarowsky	John A. Simmons
<b>East Granby</b>	<b>Other Towns in CT</b>
Nonie Logee	Gerald J. Gaio
<b>East Hampton</b>	Allen Simard
Kathleen M. Blaschik	<b>Simsbury</b>
<b>Ellington</b>	Nonie Logee
Louise Gunn	<b>Southington</b>
Matthew Kadelski	Shirley J. Clark
<b>Enfield</b>	Wilfredo Hernandez
Ann T. Connor	<b>Vernon</b>
Gerald J. Gaio	Louise Gunn
William J. Gregoire	Matthew Kadelski
Lawrence L. Telmosse	<b>West Hartford</b>
Middletown	Sandra M. Rotman
Donald R. Marsh	<b>Windsor</b>
	Sandra M. Rotman

\* Denotes name listing only.  
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

**OBITUARIES****Blaschik, Kathleen (Katie) Mary**

Kathleen (Katie) Blaschik, 42, of East Haddam passed away peacefully with her mother by her side on Wednesday, March 23, 2022. She was born in Middletown, daughter of Patricia (Gubbins) Blaschik and the late Robert Blaschik. Katie was known for her quick wit, sarcasm, and sense of humor. She loved spending time with her son, Kevin, playing board games and cards. She also had quite the green thumb, loved hummingbirds, reading, and Led Zeppelin. She is survived by her mother Patricia (East Haddam), her sisters Meghan Blaschik and Noreen (Blaschik) Favreau (East Haddam), and her son Kevin Wade (Moodus). A memorial service for Katie will be held at St Bridget of Kildare (75 Moodus-Leesville Rd. Moodus) on Saturday, May 7th at 11 am, interment will be at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Noreen Favreau (215 East Haddam Moodus Rd, East Haddam, CT 06423) to be distributed to Katie's favorite charities in her memory.

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

**Marsh, Donald R.**

Donald R. Marsh, 92, of Middletown, ended his earthly journey and was reunited with his wife, Barbara, on Monday, April 11th, 2022. Born November of 1929 in Rockland, Maine, he would spend his childhood there before serving his country in the Korean War. After the war, he attended the University of Hartford, where he received his engineering degree, with which he was hired at the Fafnir Bearing Company; It was there that he met the love of his life, Barbara. Donald retired from Fafnir with many patents after many years of dedicated service. He went on to enjoy the rest of his time on Earth with close friends and family, being a long-time member of the Lyman Orchards Golf Club, as well as several other clubs and organizations. Donald loved taking trips to New Hampshire with his brother-in-law, Cliff. He also loved the water and would take any opportunity to spent time boating. Donald leaves behind his son David, his loving daughter-in-law, Janet, as well as many nieces, nephews, and dear friends. A funeral service will be held at 11AM, on Thursday, April 14th at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm Street, Rocky Hill, CT. Friends and family may call at the funeral home from 10 to 11AM, just before the funeral service. Please share online expressions of sympathy, memories, or photo tributes at [www.rosehillfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rosehillfuneralhomes.com)

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**Gunn, Louise (DeGregorio)**

Louise DeGregorio Gunn, wife of the late Richard "Coach" Gunn, passed away on Monday, April 4th, 2022 surrounded by her loving family. Louise was born in Pittsburgh, PA in December 1935 and was raised there before settling in the Rockville/Ellington area in 1959 with her husband Dick of 64 years. Louise leaves behind her son, Gregory Richard Gunn and his wife Lynne of Ashford, CT; son Gary Steven Gunn and his wife Michel of Ossining, NY; daughter Gina Louise Gunn; and grandchildren Daniel Gunn, Rebecca Gunn, Mia Gunn and Macy Gunn. Louise also leaves a sister MaryAnn DeGregorio Tucci, of Florida and many loving nieces and nephews. Louise was predeceased by her brother John DeGregorio.

While growing up in the Oakland area of Pittsburgh she was an avid Steelers and Pirates fan (gathering as many foul balls hit out of Forbes Field as she could). As a teenager she set the record for participation in the most number of clubs and activities at her high school but was best remembered for her role as the head majorette for the Taylor Allderdice Dragons.

While Louise would say her primary role was as a homemaker, she held various jobs over the years, from the accounting department at Amerbelle Corp. in Rockville, CT before her children were born, and later working as a bus driver for the Ellington school system, Savings Bank of Rockville, and J.C. Penny Company, Inc.

Locally Louise is fondly remembered for running the concession stand for the Ellington Little League and Ellington Roadrunner football team while also coaching the Roadrunner cheerleading squad in its early years. Additionally, she was instrumental in starting the Ellington Athletic League (EAL), Ellington Little League, Ellington Recreational basketball League and Ellington Roadrunner football alongside her husband Dick.

Never one to sit still very long, after her volunteer work for the youth of the Ellington community waned she was quick to pick up the mantle of activism as one of the charter members of Connecticut Opposed to Waste (COW), having proudly fought against a proposed nuclear waste dump in Ellington during the early '90s. When she wasn't fighting that she could be seen indulging her favorite holiday of Halloween, volunteering for the Connecticut Trolley Museum as a witch in their Rails to the Darkside production.

As the family photographer and archivist, she was a great listener and could recite details of every conversation – whether one liked it or not. Some of the fondest memories she would share were of attending live music performances by her daughter and sporting events for all her family members. An excellent cook and baker, Louise especially cherished gatherings with her loving family. Some of her favorite hobbies included quilting, playing bridge, softball, volleyball, and basketball, where she was tasked with guarding Court Harned.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Critical Care Unit at Manchester Memorial Hospital and the Visiting Nurse and Health Services of CT. At the request of the family, there will be no formal funeral or calling hours. Understanding she touched many lives, to those who wish to pay their respects and honor Louise's legacy, we would ask and encourage you to consider donating your time volunteering for youth sports programs in your own community or in some other way that supports and promotes community service and civic involvement, as both Louise and Dick always did. Additionally, we would also encourage you to consider donating blood or volunteering for the American Red Cross: [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767). For online condolences please visit: [www.pietrasfuneralhome.com](http://www.pietrasfuneralhome.com)

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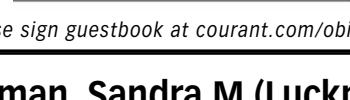
**OBITUARIES****Simmons, John Albert**

John Albert Simmons, 73 of Newington, passed away peacefully while surrounded by his family and friends on April 9th 2022. Born in Quantico V.A on June 26th 1948 he was the son of Colonel Albert Simmons of the U.S. Marine Corp and his wife Florence Simmons. John is survived by his stepson Michael Vespa and his two son's Michael and Mathew Vespa as well as a close and devoted friend, Maureen Scanlon. John was a skilled teacher and master of several styles of martial arts. He was an avid motorcyclist who was a proud founding member of the Drifter's Motorcycle Club of New Britain, CT where he made many lifelong friends. John was a master welder and pipefitter who worked from coast to coast, eventually settling for many years in California. John had recently moved back to CT to reconnect with family and friends. He was predeceased by his wife Lili G. Simmons, an artistic jewelry designer and bookkeeper. He will be missed by many. There will be no callings hours and a private service will be held at a later date.

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**Logee, Nonie (Witter)**

Nonie (Witter) Logee, 98, of Simsbury, beloved wife of the late Albert E. Logee died on April 10, 2022. Born August 15, 1923, in Webster, MA, daughter of the late Elton and Inez Witter. Nonie grew up in East Woodstock, CT and graduated from Woodstock Academy. Nonie lived, for many years in West Granby, CT where she was active in the Lost Acres Fire Dept. Auxiliary. Nonie worked for 16 years for Guay & Kellogg and then Giessler grocery store. Nonie retired in 1985 and moved to East Granby where she was active in the Friend to Friend Thrift Shop and the Senior Citizens Club. Nonie is survived by her son; David Logee of Simsbury, her daughter; Karen Tallmadge and her husband Donald of Maryland, her grandchildren; Jennifer, Deborah, and Jonathan and several great grandchildren living in MD, VA, and FL. Nonie is also survived by her sister; Shirley of Brooklyn, CT. She was predeceased by her husband Albert E. Logee. Funeral Services will be private and at the convenience of the family. Burial will take place in Granby Cemetery. Memorial donations in Nonie's memory may be made to the McLean Foundation, 75 Great Pond Road, Simsbury, CT 06070. For condolences, please visit [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carmonfuneralhome.com).



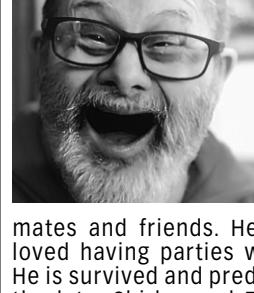
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**Rotman, Sandra M (Luckman)**

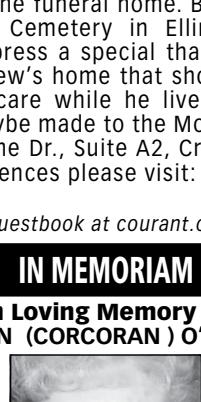
 Sandra (Luckman) Rotman, of Boynton Beach Florida, formerly of West Hartford and Windsor, passed away on April 12 surrounded by her family. Born on April 14, 1940, in Hartford the daughter of the late George and Florence (Schreyer) Luckman. She was a graduate of Weaver High School class of 1958 and a 1962 graduate of the University of Hartford. She lived and raised her family in Windsor. Sandra was an English and bilingual ed. teacher for many years at A.I. Price Technical school. She was a gregarious and quick witted woman who loved a good joke almost as much as she loved ribbing her kids about not calling enough. She had a great love for travel, ballet and the theater and her greatest thrill was going to shows in New York City. Surviving is her husband of 58 years, Yoel Rotman, her daughter Lauren (Rotman) Levitt and her husband Benjamin of Dobbs Ferry, NY, her son Michael Rotman and partner Kat Steel of Los Angeles California. She also leaves behind her much beloved grandsons Joshua and Robert Levitt. Graveside service will be held Thursday, April 14 at 11am at Beth El Cemetery In Avon.

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**Kadelski, Matthew**

 Matthew J. Kadelski, 70, passed away on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at Bayview Healthcare in Montville. He was born on June 5, 1951 in Rockville to the late Matthew and Phyllis A. (Niemann) Kadelski. Matthew was known for his good humor and love for life. He enjoyed all types of sports, fishing, spending time with his roommates and friends. He also loved to dance. Matthew loved having parties with his friends and roommates. He is survived and predeceased by his aunts and uncles, the late Shirley and Edward Wandzy Sr., Leatrice and the late, William Niemann Sr., the late, Russell and Mary (Dimmock) Niemann, Eleanor (Gunsarik) and the late Kenneth Niemann Sr., Clifford and Eileen (Chase) Niemann and Nancy (Niemann) and Mel Charette. He is survived by his guardian and cousin, Gloria (Niemann) Moeller and many other cousins. Relatives and friends are welcome to join the family from 10-11 a.m. , Friday, April 15, 2022 at the Burke-Fortin Funeral Home, 76 Prospect Street, Rockville. A Funeral Service will follow at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Ellington Center Cemetery in Ellington. The family would like to express a special thank you to the employees at Matthew's home that showed him compassion and loving care while he lived there. Memorial contributions maybe made to the Mosaic in CT, Hershel Home, 100 Sebethe Dr., Suite A2, Cromwell, CT 06416. For online condolences please visit: [www.pietrasfuneralhome.com](http://www.pietrasfuneralhome.com)

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**IN MEMORIAM****In Loving Memory Of  
HELEN (CORCORAN) O'BRIEN**

08/19/1921 - 04/13/2009

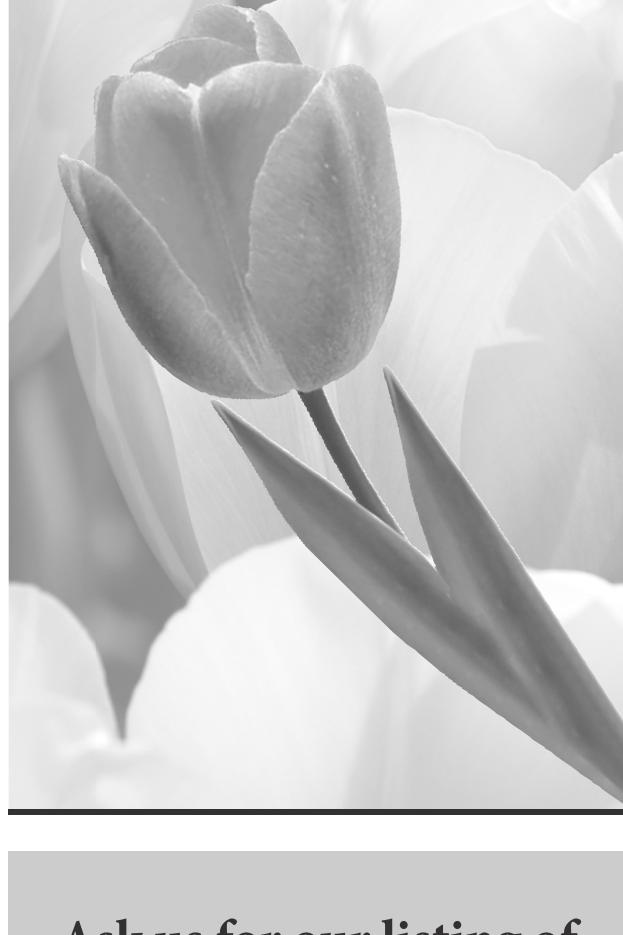


Honoring your love, light, kindness, and faith as we mark another year without you to hug and to hold. Not a day goes by that we don't think of the many lessons you taught us and of the unconditional love that you gave to us and so many others. We were blessed to have you as our Mother.

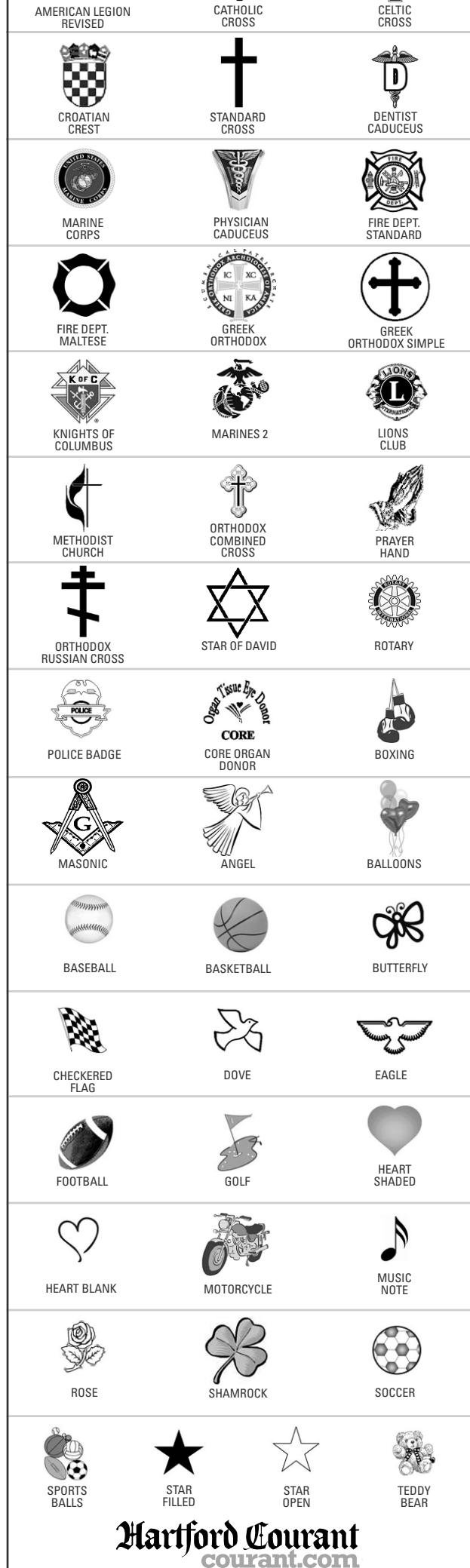
Your four loving sons, John, Mark, David and Gregory and their families.

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## Killingly school board under investigation

Department of Education opens probe over parents' complaints about social, emotional health standards

By Seamus McAvoy

Hartford Courant

In a relatively rare step, the Connecticut Department of Education is opening an investigation into the Killingly Board of Education after a group of parents and residents last week filed a complaint alleging the school board is failing to meet social and emotional health standards set out by the state.

The complaint — known as a

10-4b, which allows residents to appeal when the local school board fails to implement the educational interests of the state — stems from the Killingly school board's rejection of a plan that would have created a school-based mental health center at the high school, at no cost to the district.

"We are pleased that the State Department of Education is taking this complaint seriously. The mental health crisis our students are facing is very real," Christine

Rosati Randall, a Killingly parent, said in a statement. "Our students need help now. The School-Based Mental Health Center is an immediate way to meet the dire need of our students at no cost to the District."

The state's decision to pursue an investigation doesn't mean it has found the allegations set out in the 10-4b complaint to be true.

Rather, it means the state has determined that it merits a "substantial complaint," defined as "a complaint that sets forth basic facts which state a cause of action concerning an alleged violation of the educational interests of the

state."

The focus of the investigation is whether the Killingly school board is providing "a safe school setting," according to the letter sent to the board signed by Education Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker.

It is the first time in at least a decade the state Department of Education is moving forward with an investigation for this purpose.

The state has received 30 10-4b complaints over the last 10 years, according to Andrew Feinstein, an attorney working with the Killingly residents. Of those, at least 23 were dismissed outright.

In March, the Killingly Board of Education voted 6-3 to reject the plan for a school-based health center.

The plan was designed in partnership between the district's superintendent and Generations Family Health Center. It would have come at no cost to the district, and had vocal support within the community.

Parents and staff argue the need for mental health services in Killingly schools goes beyond what its counselors and social workers have the capacity to provide amid

**Turn to Killingly, Page 2**



Jesse Martin, left, vice president of 1199NE SEIU, speaks during a news conference as care providers listen Tuesday in Hartford. Nursing home care providers announced more than 400 workers will strike April 22 over alleged unfair labor practices. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

## Nursing home workers threaten April 22 strike

Employees at five facilities prepare to walk out over alleged unfair labor practices

By Don Stacom

Hartford Courant

Nearly 450 workers at five nursing homes in Hartford, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Bloomfield and Windsor will begin a strike April 22 to resolve what they describe as unfair labor practices, their union announced Tuesday.

"Many of the caregivers, dietary, housekeeping and laundry workers we represent have received poverty-level wages, have spent weeks or days without pay, and have worked in some cases 16 hours a day for weeks on end,"

said Jesse Martin, vice president of SEIU District 1199 New England.

The union announced that its membership had overwhelmingly authorized a strike for April 22 starting at 6 a.m. at the Bloomfield Health Care Center, Hebrew Center for Health & Rehabilitation in West Hartford, Maple View Health and Rehabilitation Center in Rocky Hill, Windsor Health and Rehabilitation Center and Avery Heights Senior Living in Hartford.

"These employers have committed significant violations of federal labor law," Martin said. One nursing home had hired unlicensed

staff and offered them CNA licensure in lieu of their first few weeks of pay, he alleged.

The union said those nursing homes are also among the last stragglers to reach new labor contracts; it said it has successfully negotiated multi-year agreements with about 90 percent of Connecticut's nursing homes.

It wants minimum wages of \$20 for certified nursing assistants, \$18.50 for other workers, more affordable health insurance, retirement and pension contributions, and what it called measures to address racial discrimination.

National Health Care Associates, which owns the nursing homes in Rocky Hill, West Hartford and Bloomfield, countered that it has been bargaining in good faith all along.

The company has agreed to increases of 15.5% to 20.5% for minimum wage employees starting next summer, and a 4.5% raise for anyone earning more than minimum wage, it said.

"We also have committed to using monies from the state to fund a defined contribution

**Turn to Strike, Page 2**

## Employers push back against tax hikes

Owners face increases to help pay off state's unemployment debt

By Stephen Singer

Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Like other small-business owners in Connecticut, Keith Beaulieu of The Main Pub, a Manchester restaurant going back more than 40 years, faces tax increases to replenish the state unemployment insurance fund tapped to the max during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He joined other business owners and Republican lawmakers at the Capitol on Tuesday, urging the Democratic-led General Assembly and Gov. Ned Lamont to use federal pandemic money to pay down unemployment insurance debt run up as joblessness soared after businesses were shut in 2020.

With just three weeks left to the legislative session, businesses and their allies are stepping up their lobbying. They say employers were forced through no fault of their own to shut businesses during the worst of the pandemic. Many restaurants never reopened.

"How many more will we lose unless Connecticut fixes the unemployment insurance trust problem?" Beaulieu said.

Max Reiss, a spokesman for Lamont, said Connecticut repaid half the money it borrowed to fund unemployment insurance and has covered interest payments for the life of a federal loan, in part due to a \$155 million in federal pandemic aid last year.

"Allocating more than that \$155 million to the UI fund wouldn't help businesses before 2026, and most of the benefits would go to the state's largest employers," he said.

State Sen. Cathy Osten, co-chair of the Appropriations Committee, which did not include funding to help businesses pay unemployment

**Turn to Taxes, Page 3**

## Person of interest named in shooting of Olympian's mom

Woman was killed by a stray bullet while sewing in her home

By Taylor Hartz

Hartford Courant

A 56-year-old mother of three was sewing inside her Waterbury home on Saturday afternoon when a stray bullet pierced the wall of her house and struck her.

Mabel Martinez Antongiorgi was found in her home at 42 Orange Street about 1:15 p.m. with a gunshot wound and was rushed to Saint Mary's Hospital, where she died from her injuries about 24 hours later.

On Tuesday, Waterbury Police Department Chief Fernando Spagnolo called Antongiorgi "a beautiful woman" and told the family they would work hard to find her killer.

"This is so tragic," he said.

"Words cannot describe it or console you, we understand that, but we vow to you we are going to work very hard to understand what happened here and bring the people to justice that are responsible for this."

Antongiorgi was a devoted wife and mother who had moved to Waterbury from her native Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria devastated the island in 2017, according to Spagnolo and social media posts made by her daughter, Olympic athlete Yarimar Mercado Martinez.

"She was a homemaker, and she was at home taking care of some domestic duties when those shots rang out and she was struck in the head," Spagnolo said during a press conference at Waterbury police headquarters Tuesday.

Antongiorgi's family sat together in solemn silence during the press conference, Martinez hanging her head in her hands, as

police recounted the details of the tragic shooting.

Police allege that the fatal bullet was fired during a shootout between two vehicles on Orange Street on Saturday afternoon.

"In the backdrop of those two vehicles were two locations on Orange Street," Spagnolo said. One of those locations was the home in which Antongiorgi sat sewing. Another bullet struck a neighboring house during the same incident, but no one was injured.

According to police, shortly after Antongiorgi was rushed to the hospital, 25-year-old Waterbury resident Ryan Lindsay was dropped off at the emergency room with a gunshot wound to his hip. He was treated, released and brought into the police department for questioning, Spagnolo said.

Police said they learned that

**Turn to Shooting, Page 2**

## PAC plans to make trans athletes and race theory issues in governor race

Hedge fund manager chairs 'Parents Against Stupid Stuff' group

By Mark Pazniokas

CT Mirror

A donor to national efforts opposing abortion, gay marriage and, more recently, critical race theory and transgender rights has turned his attention to Connecticut's gubernatorial race with a cheekily named new independent-expenditures group, "Parents Against Stupid Stuff PAC."

The new super PAC's chair and initial contributor is Sean Fieler, a hedge fund manager and conservative Catholic philanthropist who has kept a relatively low profile in Connecticut since

moving from Princeton, N.J., to a sprawling Tudor home on four acres in Stamford in 2018.

In an interview Monday, Fieler said the group will spend more than \$1 million arguing that Gov. Ned Lamont, a first-term Democrat, is at odds with parents over critical race theory, sexually explicit curricula in public schools and the participation of transgender athletes in girls' sports.

"Broadly speaking, these are three cultural issues where he's at the extreme of where the Democrat Party is and just not where the electorate in Connecticut is," Fieler said. "These are not controversial issues, at least not when you poll them. The residents of Connecticut, the electorate of Connecticut, oppose this kind of stuff."

**Turn to PAC, Page 2**

## CONNECTICUT

### PAC

from Page 1

Fieler said the new Connecticut group is independent of the American Principles Project, the conservative nonprofit and super PAC for which he serves as chair and a financial backer. Its prescription to the GOP is to confront the "wokeism" of the left and "commit to an agenda centered around rebuilding the American family."

Through that group and others, Fieler long has been a behind-the-scenes player in America's culture wars, as well as an advocate of limiting the influence of the Federal Reserve by reinstating the gold standard as a foundation of monetary policy.

Fieler, the majority owner and chief investment officer of Equinox Partners, has contributed more than \$1.7 million to American Principles' political affiliates and millions more to Republican candidates, conservative causes and Catholic charitable groups and schools.

Parents Against Stupid Stuff is his first foray into Connecticut politics outside of limited contributions: \$10,000 to the state GOP in 2021 and 2022, \$1,000 to the Family Institute of Connecticut and \$250 to Rep. Kim Fiorello, R-Greenwich, in 2020, and \$3,500 to Bob Stefanowski's gubernatorial campaign in 2018.

Whatever his broader interests, Fieler emphasized his PAC will be tightly focused on issues relating to the influence of parents and families in the schools, not abortion or gay marriage. He said he sees parental rights resonating in Connecticut in ways that other social issues do not.

"So there's obvious political application to these issues in a way that there aren't for some of the other social issues in a state like Connecticut," he said.

His new PAC was registered March 1 with the State Elections Enforcement Commission, and its first quarterly report showed initial contributions of \$80,000 from Fieler and a payment of \$60,375 to Evolving Strategies of Bethesda, Md., for "messaging test research."

Evolving Strategies describes itself on its web site as "a behavioral science and clinical data science firm. We use experiments and artificial intelligence to modify (not just predict) human behavior — we get more people to do what you need them to do."

Fieler declined to say when or how its messaging would begin. CT Truth PAC, another independent expenditures group with a

budget of at least \$1 million, already is running ads on television and the web attacking Lamont, who is independently wealthy and largely self-funding his campaign.

"We're looking forward to working closely with a number of the parents' groups that have spontaneously formed over the last six months to a year here," Fieler said.

In Virginia, education was an issue in 2021, when voters ended a 12-year Democratic winning streak in governor's races and elected Republican Glenn Youngkin, who had staged "Parents Matter" rallies.

Some Connecticut operatives in either party are skeptical about whether that can be replicated here. Last year, the election was held while Virginia parents were furious over continuing mask mandates and long school closures due to COVID-19, as well as concerns about what was being taught.

"That's why it got life in the Virginia governor's race," said Mark Bergman, a Democratic consultant who has advised campaigns in Virginia and Connecticut.

Democrat Terry McAuliffe didn't help his cause when he seemed dismissive of parents, saying, "I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach."

The influence of critical race theory on local education was an issue in several Connecticut towns in 2021, most notably in Guilford. A slate of insurgents used the issue to unseat Republican incumbents in a GOP primary, but they were defeated in the general election.

The ability of transgender girls to compete in girls' sports became an issue in 2020, albeit a narrow one arising from a lawsuit filed against the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference on behalf of three female track athletes who objected to competing against a transgender girl, as allowed by CIAC rules.

The Connecticut Republican Party generally has shied from the culture wars, though a former state chair, J.R. Romano, gave a "courage award" in 2020 to the three female athletes.

"When you have biological males beating girls in girls' sports, that's something that Gov. Lamont has really, I think, tried to avoid as an issue," Fieler said. "And to the extent that he said anything about it has been on the wrong side of the electorate."

In 2020, the Trump administration threatened to withhold federal education aid over the CIAC's policy and a Connecticut

law prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity.

After months of silence, Lamont promised to defy the administration: "We're gonna stand up, fight against discrimination."

But he clearly was discomfited by the issue.

"Look, I'm 66 years old. This is a tough situation — trans," Lamont said at a press conference in September 2020. "We're going to work through this as a state, but I don't need the heavy hand of the federal government coming in and penalizing schools and shortchanging kids to do this. I think we're going to do this at the community level. We're going to figure this out with our leagues. And I just wish the federal government butt out on this subject. Leave our kids alone."

Fieler could not say why he was confident Stefanowski, the presumptive GOP for governor, would support banning transgender athletes. Citing a state law banning a super PAC's coordination with a candidate it is supporting, he said he has not spoken to the Republican candidate.

Stefanowski could not be reached Monday on the issue.

Lamont's campaign manager, Dan Morrocco, was quick, however, to brand Fieler as "an anti-choice, anti-gay-marriage, Trump-supporting zealot" whose support will reflect on Stefanowski.

Stefanowski has broadly signaled solidarity with parents who complain of lacking influence in their children's education. In a video posted on social media last week, Stefanowski and his wife, Amy, talked about issues on which Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated voters can agree.

"One is giving our kids a solid education," Stefanowski said. "Amy and I were fortunate to have great schools for our kids. We had a say in their education. We had a say in looking at their homework and watching what they're learning, and parents deserve that."

That, of course, is a long way from banning transgender athletes who identify as girls from competing in high school sports or participating in a debate about which books might be appropriate for which ages.

Fieler said he is aware of cases of sexually explicit or inappropriate materials being used in the schools, mentioning a controversy over a lesson about sexual consent mistakenly offered to eighth grade students in a family health and human sexuality class in Enfield.

"Sexually explicit material being taught to young children in schools defies common sense," he said.

Fieler moved his family and eventually his business to Connecticut after his wife, Ana Cecilia Fieler, an economist, began teaching at Yale. They are the parents of six children: the youngest is 2, the oldest a freshman in high school.

In a speech in 2018 at the Catholic Information Center annual gala, where he received the "John Paul II Award for the New Evangelization," Fieler said his own evangelical work began with his checkbook, a description that could apply to his political activism or his philanthropy.

As described by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the New Evangelization is recognition that relatively few Catholics practice their faith and a call for all Catholics to evangelize to others.

"I immediately gravitated towards the easiest way to evangelize. I gave money to others to evangelize," Fieler said. "And, to be very frank, that is the vast majority of my involvement in what might be loosely called 'The New Evangelization' until I met Cecilia and we had a family."

He challenged his audience to be evangelicals willing to confront fellow Catholics who have fallen away from the faith and accept the "Gnostic heresies" of modern life.

"Let me sum up the moment this way: By the time the government has decided that guys who claim to be girls should have access to the girls' locker room because they are really girls, you can be pretty certain that the gnostic heresy is well advanced," he said. "We, the co-conspirators in the New Evangelization, are kidding ourselves if we think that we can boldly proclaim what we believe and sidestep the dominant heresy of our time."

His challenge was not unlike the advice the American Principles Project is giving to the Republican Party: Evangelicals, like political activists, must be willing to engage on matters of faith and family, especially when the message is difficult or out of fashion.

Fieler said "while the culture war strongly discourages us from making the case for the Church's teaching on sex and marriage in the public square, we must nevertheless publicly affirm what we believe."

*Mark Paziokas is a reporter for The Connecticut Mirror (<https://ctmirror.org/>). Copyright 2022 © The Connecticut Mirror.*

ten anything. That's what kids do," Joly said.

Joly did not provide a reason for her resignation in a brief letter to the town clerk, but elaborated on her departure in an interview with WINY Radio.

"The reason why I resigned was because there's so much hate I believe on the Democrats' side," Joly reportedly told WINY. "There could be some Republicans involved as well, but mainly it seems like it's coming from the Democrats. And it's become rather saddening and scary, and I just felt like I didn't want to be part of any of this anymore."

Regarding her comments about the survey, Joly said "That was a generality. They turned it into, 'She said our kids our liars.' And that is not what I said. That is not what I meant."

*Seamus McAvoy can be reached at smcavoy@courant.com*

public's help tracking him down.

"We are asking anybody, anywhere, if you have information on his whereabouts, to contact the police department," Spagnolo said.

In 2018, while out on parole after a conviction on charges of first-degree assault and possession of weapons, he violated the conditions of his parole by being found in possession of drugs with intent to sell, according to Spagnolo.

"What disturbs me is yet again we have another convicted felon who is on probation that's in

## Man's body found in garage of Avon home after fire

By Christine Dempsey

Hartford Courant

the fire.

There was no structural damage to the main living area of the 8,400-square-foot house, although the home has smoke damage.

Avon's fire marshal is working with local police and the state police Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit to determine what caused the blaze. The residents will be displaced until the investigation is over, police said.

Firefighters were called to the address about 7:40 a.m. When they arrived, they saw smoke coming from the home's three-car garage, police said. They were able to knock down the fire so it wouldn't spread.

Firefighters then found a deceased adult male in the garage, police said. No one else was home at the time of

## New Haven man gets prison for selling drugs after hiding in trash can

By Edmund H. Mahony

Hartford Courant

and James Lee, who had posted bond on an earlier drug charge — enter a building on Elm Street.

Lee was arrested when he came out of the building, federal prosecutors said. Russell fled, but was captured a short distance away in the garbage can.

Federal prosecutors said Darryl Russell, 33, was captured by New Haven police who were following a car that was suspected of involvement in drug trafficking, but had eluded them earlier.

A detective followed the car until he saw two occupants get out on Brown Street and engage in what allegedly looked like sidewalk drug sales before getting back in the car, according to federal officials. A short while later, police saw the two — Russell

of work.

As part of a COVID-19 mitigation package, the companies all received state aid to help pay workers — but some have refused to spend it, Martin said. He said the union is concerned that when the state department of social services audits those grants, it will reclaim the money and the workers will never get what they're owed.

Several certified nursing assistants from the homes attended the morning press conferences at 1199's Hartford office, and told of longtime workers still making substandard wages despite the demands of the pandemic and the shortage of health care workers.

"We have worked consistently and are tremendously tired through the COVID (pandemic). We should be paid fairly for the work we have done and are still doing," said Annamaria Parsons, a CNA at Avery Heights. "The boss is making lots of money and doesn't want to share."

Yvonne Foster said she has worked at Windsor Health for 21 years and still doesn't make \$20 an hour, has no retirement account and can't afford health insurance.

Marcia Armstrong, a CNA at Bloomfield Health, said coworkers who've put in 30 and 40 years are being treated unfairly, and accused her employer of making promises that go unfulfilled.

"We've been told for two years that we're essential, yet I still can't pay my bills or afford health care with the low wages I'm being paid," Nadine Lawrence, a CNA at the Bloomfield Health Care Center, said in a statement. "I'm at my breaking point."

## SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

A story on Page 1 of the April 2 Connecticut section, "Dispute rocks town hall," did not report complete information about former Simsbury Assistant Town Planner Robin Newton's complaint of a hostile work environment and her subsequent departure. After Newton was dismissed in late 2019, she formally complained that Town Manager Maria Capriola had targeted her unfairly. Selectmen ultimately rescinded Newton's termination and paid her \$8,000 in a settlement; Newton resigned and retracted her complaint against Capriola.

## Killingly

from Page 1

an increase in demand associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

As alleged in the 10-4b complaint, survey and school data suggest a dire need for mental and behavioral health intervention in a community where access to services is a challenge.

Nearly 15% of Killingly students admit to having made a suicide plan, according to a November survey of 477 students in grades 7 to 12 conducted by SERAC, a nonprofit focused on mental health in eastern Connecticut.

More than 28% reported feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more, and another 28.2% admitted to having thoughts of hurting themselves.

There were 500 incidents where students had to leave

class to receive immediate counseling in just the first half of the 2021-2022 school year, the complaint reads.

Killingly High School is calling 211 "several times a week" for services, according to Kristine Cicchetti, human resource assistant in Killingly Public Schools.

Cicchetti said the school board floated the idea of hiring another school psychologist, but she argues this is the wrong tactic.

"The district has had a school psychologist opening for over a year, but [the school board's] solution is to create another vacancy in our school district instead of providing our children with the appropriate level of mental health resources they require — it makes no sense," Cicchetti said in a statement.

A small group of students, parents and staff made the trip from Killingly to Hartford last Wednesday to appeal to education leaders during the state Board of

Education's monthly meeting.

"The issue of children and staff's social, emotional and behavioral well-being is so critical to education," Russell-Tucker, education commissioner, said during the meeting. "We continue ... to work to ensure that every school building in our state has the requisite support necessary, be it more staff, be it working in partnership, to make sure that we are addressing those needs because they're critical to academic success, and just overall well-being."

Janice Joly, former chair of the Killingly school board, resigned on Friday. She had drawn particular criticism within the community for appearing to doubt the veracity of the mental health survey during a school board meeting.

"How do you know they were honest responses? They were dealing with kids. They could have writ-

ten anything. That's what kids do," Joly said.

Joly did not provide a reason for her resignation in a brief letter to the town clerk, but elaborated on her departure in an interview with WINY Radio.

"The reason why I resigned was because there's so much hate I believe on the Democrats' side," Joly reportedly told WINY. "There could be some Republicans involved as well, but mainly it seems like it's coming from the Democrats. And it's become rather saddening and scary, and I just felt like I didn't want to be part of any of this anymore."

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*Seamus McAvoy can be reached at smcavoy@courant.com*

## Shooting

from Page 1

Lindsay had been involved with an alleged "drug-related incident" along with Angel Gonzales, a 22-year-old Waterbury resident and convicted felon known to police as a member of the city's illegal drug trade. Lindsay was believed to be the intended target of the bullets, police said.

Police said they found nearly two dozen shell casings at the scene and identified two vehicles that were allegedly involved

in the drug-deal-turned-shooting, a white Acura belonging to Gonzales and a black Honda registered to Levi Brock of New Haven.

Brock, a 38-year-old convicted felon who is out on parole, is wanted for questioning by police, they said. Police said he is a person of interest in the investigation but has not been charged in the shooting.

Police said officers found Brock's vehicle in New Haven and recovered a handgun from the car but have yet to locate him. They're asking for the

public's help tracking him down.

"We are asking anybody, anywhere, if you have information on his whereabouts, to contact the police department," Spagnolo said.

In 2018, while out on parole after a conviction on charges of first-degree assault and possession of weapons, he violated the conditions of his parole by being found in possession of drugs with intent to sell, according to Spagnolo.

Anyone with information about the shooting was asked to contact the department's detective bureau at 203-574-6941 or Crime Stoppers at 203-755-1234.

## CONNECTICUT

# Lamont touts COVID response, tax cuts in ad

Governor releases second TV commercial of reelection campaign

By Christopher Keating  
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — With nearly seven months remaining in a long campaign, Gov. Ned Lamont released his second campaign commercial Tuesday that focuses on his accomplishments in office — and said he is worried about outside, third-party money flowing into the state with attack ads.

At this early stage, Lamont is avoiding any attacks and does not mention his expected opponent, Republican Bob Stefanowski of Madison. Instead, he devotes most of the 60-second commercial toward his handling of the COVID-19 crisis — starting with the initial report in northern Fairfield County more than two years ago.

"I remember like yesterday when I got the call — our first case," Lamont says as the commercial begins. "A nurse at Danbury hospital had COVID. Right away, we got the best people together: business leaders, health care experts."

Lamont told reporters that he

has largely avoided buying TV commercials at the moment.

"Well, I really haven't done much," Lamont told reporters Tuesday. "I want to get through this legislative session. I want to keep the politics over there as long as I can, which is not much longer. I went up with a positive 30-second ad just because everybody else is on TV, and I figured I should at least send our message."

While Lamont avoids negativity, the campaign is expected to be a bitter rematch between two multimillionaire business executives. Stefanowski has pledged to spend \$10 million, while Lamont has already spent more than \$40 million of his own money on three races — for U.S. Senate in 2006 and governor in 2010 and 2018.

Much of the negativity is expected from outside groups with money backing the candidates. A commercial is already airing by CT Truth PAC, Inc., a pro-Stefanowski group that has raised \$1 million and has released a 30-second ad that says, "Governor Lamont: Come Clean. Your administration looks dirty."

The ad referenced an ongoing investigation by the FBI and federal prosecutors regard-

ing Kosta Diamantis, a former Democratic state legislator who was fired as deputy budget director eight days after the state received a subpoena concerning school construction projects that Diamantis oversaw.

"I worry about all this outside money pouring into the state," Lamont said. "These independent PACs, I'm not sure they reflect Connecticut values or where we're coming from. I'm thinking I'll reserve judgement and see how it plays out."

In his 60-second ad, Lamont segues near the end of the commercial to tax cuts, which is among the hottest topics at the state Capitol at the moment. Lamont and top legislators are starting final negotiations over his \$336 million package that would reduce taxes on cars and residential property. The \$400 million figure mentioned in the commercial includes about \$75 million from increasing the earned income tax credit for working families, according to the campaign.

Lawmakers are facing a deadline as the regular legislative session ends on May 4, and they traditionally wait until counting all the money from the federal and state income tax filing deadline that has

been pushed back this year until April 18.

With more than \$2 billion in federal funds over two years and record-breaking levels on Wall Street in recent years, the state budget surplus is now projected at \$1.76 billion for the fiscal year ending June 30 and more than \$1 billion next year. The rainy day fund for fiscal emergencies is expected to top \$5 billion later this year if fiscal trends continue — before some money is taken from the fund to pay down long-term pension debt.

"Through two years of a devastating pandemic, Gov. Lamont brought the best people together to keep our state safe, healthy, and working," said Dan Morrocco, Lamont's campaign manager. "Under his leadership, our state has seen balanced budgets and record surpluses — and now Connecticut families will have more money in their pockets thanks to the governor's tax cuts."

The transcript for Lamont's 60-second ad is as follows:

Lamont: "I remember like yesterday when I got the call — our first case. A nurse at Danbury hospital had COVID. Right away, we got the best people together: business leaders, healthcare

experts.

Doctor: There wasn't a moment to lose. They got us what we needed.

Lamont: Our focus — keep Connecticut safe, healthy, and working. We developed the most effective vaccination rollout in the country. Got our schools open and kept them open.

Teacher: They got students in school, learning in person, the way they need to.

Lamont: We couldn't let them fall behind, and parents needed to get back to work. When other places remained closed, we made sure our small businesses could safely reopen.

Small businesses owner: I could make payroll, keep my employees working.

Lamont: Here in Connecticut, we brought all parties together. That's how we turned a massive budget deficit into three years of surpluses. And now we're fighting for a \$400 million tax cut.

Sure we faced a lot together, but our state stayed strong. And it's getting stronger.

"I'm Ned Lamont, and I approve this message."

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## Taxes

from Page 1

insurance debt, said the issue is being negotiated between the legislature and Lamont.

Nearly 300,000 jobs disappeared in early 2020 after Lamont and state public health officials ordered businesses shut to limit the spread of COVID-19. At the peak of the employment crisis in early May 2020, the state Department of Labor worked through about 390,000 weekly unemployment insurance claims, or nearly 19% of Connecticut's labor force.

Connecticut borrowed \$888 million and \$425 million has been repaid, with employers covering \$300 million. Federal COVID-19 relief funds repaid \$155 million, including interest. Employers are responsible for the remaining \$463 million and say they face tax increases between now and 2026.

The tax increases are particularly painful as businesses cope with an inflationary spiral that's driving up costs, "jeopardizing our profit," said Wendy Traub, president of Hemlock Directional Boring in Torrington.

Employers will pay an increasing contribution to the unemployment trust fund of 0.3% to 1.7% of each employee's first \$7,000 in wages between 2023 and 2026, according to the governor's office. It amounts to \$21 to \$119 per employee in each of the four years.

Employers frame the issue as an economic development spur by helping them invest in other business operations rather than higher unemployment insurance costs.

"It took six years of higher unemployment taxes on employers to pay off federal loans following the 2008-2010 recession and we can't hold that debt over small businesses again," said Chris DiPentima, president of the Connecticut Business & Industry Association.

Earlier Tuesday, Lamont struck an upbeat note as he spoke to the CBIA, which is lobbying against several pieces of legislation seen by business as hostile to job creation and economic growth.

"I think Connecticut is in the strongest position we've been in probably a generation to 25 years," he said in a video speech as he quarantined after testing positive for COVID-19. The governor cited budget surpluses that have helped pay down state pension liability and other debts and relocations to Connecticut of several large corporations.

He warned that the state will "go through some choppy waters," pointing to the announcement Tuesday by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics that inflation was 8.5% in the past year, a record high in more than four decades.

The CBIA opposes legislation that would allow striking workers to receive unemployment benefits and forbid businesses to require workers to attend or participate in meetings about the employers' views on political or religious matters.

Stephen Singer can be reached at [ssinger@courant.com](mailto:ssinger@courant.com).

# GOP criticizes process extending Lamont's original executive orders

Senate votes along party lines, pushes date of expiration to June 30

By Christopher Keating  
Hartford Courant

The Democratic-controlled Senate voted along strict party lines Tuesday to extend four of Gov. Ned Lamont's original executive orders to continue combatting the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The Senate moved this week because the original orders, which have since been codified by the legislature into law, are scheduled to expire Friday. As such, the Senate voted for short-term extensions to push those laws until June 30.

Democrats supported the extensions, saying they were important provisions that will help the homeless, nurse's aides and renters, among others.

But Republicans complained that the emergency-certified bill never had a public hearing, saying that the general public should have had a better chance to weigh in on the pandemic issues.

Sen. Rob Sampson, a Wolcott Republican, questioned why any original order should be extended — an issue that has been debated multiple times as Lamont's orders were extended. For months some Republicans have declared that the pandemic is essentially over because hospitalizations and infections have fallen sharply.

"The state of emergency passed on a party line, with many Republicans standing up in opposition," Sampson said on the Senate floor that was largely empty. "We've got to make up our minds on whether there is a pandemic. ... Each time this body gets together we are, in effect, separating the people from



State Sen. Rob Sampson questioned why Gov. Ned Lamont's original executive orders intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic should be extended. COURANT FILE PHOTO

their government.

"We need to return to our American system. ... We need to return to doing our job the right way. This is not it."

Sen. Dan Champagne of Vernon agreed with Sampson, saying the bill should have had a public hearing instead of being fast-tracked through the process.

"We've declared that the emergency is over, except for this batch," Champagne said on the Senate floor. "It should have been done properly. This is not properly."

Sen. Tony Hwang, a Fairfield Republican who serves as the ranking member on the public health committee, said he too was frustrated by the process.

"Let the people have their voice represented," said Hwang, adding that he agrees with some of the concepts in principle. "We should have had a public hearing."

But Sen. Matt Lesser, a Middletown Democrat who led the debate, said that many of the provisions had been examined by various legislative committees, including on the vaccine database

that "has had a full vetting."

The issues included:

## Vaccination database

One of the four extensions would allow the state's public health department to disclose a person's vaccination status to school nurses, local health directors and others as some residents have lost their vaccination cards.

"This order permits health care providers to properly administer booster shots by making a person's vaccine information readily available, even if the person has misplaced their original vaccination card," according to a summary sent to legislators.

"It also permits school nurses and local health directors to access a person's vaccination status to properly respond to any COVID outbreaks within their jurisdiction."

Lamont said he is sympathetic to concerns about keeping the records vaccination records confidential.

"Keep it private," he told reporters in a Zoom call. "I understand. ... I haven't heard about people leaking this information."

## Temporary nurses' aides

A second extension allows officials to suspend various requirements for temporary nurses' aides and allow them to keep practicing their profession because their skills are in high demand at nursing homes and other facilities.

The order allows the state public health commissioner "to adopt, amend, implement, suspend and revoke training, competency, scope of practice and temporary hiring policies concerning temporary nurse aides and grant a registration to an individual as a temporary nurse aide who complies with the policies adopted," a summary states.

Another extension would authorize the state to continue providing non-congregate housing to the homeless and other at-risk residents so that they are not placed into close quarters in bunk beds in shelters that can easily lead to the spread of COVID-19.

The state has already received millions from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to carry out the program. The funding provides for adequate housing to allow people in need to be spaced apart and thus at lower risk of contracting and spreading the virus.

"It allows us to access federal funds that are really critical," Lesser said. "We are moving toward normalcy."

## Requirements regarding evictions

A fourth extension forces landlords to contact the state's emergency rental assistance program, known as "UniteCT," before evicting any tenant for not paying rent. Landlords also must give tenants notice of at least 30 days before starting the eviction process.

The law also ensures that any eviction notice must include information about the federal eviction moratorium in both Spanish and English, along with details about the UniteCT program. If either the tenant or landlord applies for the rental assistance program, the eviction proceedings can be temporarily postponed.

Christopher Keating can be reached at [ckeating@courant.com](mailto:ckeating@courant.com)

# State Supreme Court finds rights violations in murder case, but lets conviction stand

By Edmund H. Mahony

Hartford Courant

The State Supreme Court said Monday that police and prosecutors may have violated a New London man's constitutional rights but upheld his murder conviction because jurors could have found him guilty based on other substantial evidence.

Gerjuwan Tyrus, 41, who is serving a 55-year sentence, claimed his right to be protected from an illegal search was violated when police obtained his cellphone location records without a warrant, and again when he was not permitted to confront one of his accusers because a firearms expert testified about the findings of a second examiner, who had died before the trial.

The state Appellate Court had previously upheld Tyrus' conviction for the 2006 murder.

Tyrus was accused of a revenge murder.

There is evidence in the case that in 2006 Tyrus was allegedly involved in a dispute with the victim, Todd Thomas, over jewelry

Tyus had obtained from Thomas' brother, while the brother was under the influence of drugs. Thomas wanted the jewelry returned and Tyus refused unless he got \$10,000.

According to the Supreme Court decision, in late 2006, Thomas fired at Tyus with a .38-caliber handgun in a drive-by shooting, hitting him in the leg and back. Tyus fired back with a 9mm handgun. Gun casings from both guns were collected by police. Later the same day, as Tyus was being treated at the hospital, his friend and eventual co-defendant Darius Armadore, was overheard saying, "we're gonna get them (racial epithet)..."

Weeks later, on Dec. 15, Tyus and Armadore rented a silver Chevrolet Impala, drove to Boston and returned to Connecticut. Shortly after midnight, Thomas was shot in the head while standing on the sidewalk in front of Ernie's Café in New London. A witness saw the gunman jump into a silver car, which sped away.

Not long after that, Tyus and Armadore arrived at Bella Note, a

night club in New Haven.

Tyus testified at his trial and claimed that he and Armadore had driven directly to the New Haven night club from Boston. The cellphone location data, presented to the jury by an FBI expert, told a different story.

Data from three cellphones — two from Tyus and one from Armadore — show the phones were in New London at the time of the shooting. But there was corroborating evidence that included a witness who said the two arrived at Bella Note after Thomas was killed and Armadore's girlfriend, who testified that when he got home, he told her he had shot someone earlier in the night, according to the ruling.

Police collected shell casings from the shooting outside Ernie's Café and determined that they matched those fired from the nine millimeter handgun in the drive-by shooting in which Tyus had been wounded and also fired shots.

Tyus hadn't raised a constitutional claim about the cellphone data at his trial, but the state

Supreme Court analyzed it on appeal. Police were not required to obtain warrants for cellphone data until a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2018. The state Supreme Court concluded that even though the collection of cell location data by the New London Police Department may have been a retroactive violation in view of the 2018 U.S. Supreme Court decision, it was not grounds for reversing the conviction because of the other evidence.

The state Supreme Court reached a similar conclusion about testimony by the firearms examiner. The examiner, who made his own observations of firearms evidence, was permitted to testify about the findings of his colleague, who had died before trial. The court said evidence prepared by the examiner who died was presented to the jury, but Tyus was denied the opportunity to confront the person who prepared it.

As was the case with the cellphone data, the court declined to reverse the conviction based on the firearms claim because of other evidence of guilt.



# LIVING

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ELEANOR DAVIS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

# The right way to STRUGGLE

By Jenny Anderson  
The New York Times

**W**hen Hunter, 6, started first grade last autumn, he struggled to match letter sounds with the shape of letters on paper. He found writing letters hard and writing words even harder. "It felt bad," he said recently.

But Hunter also knows how to articulate what is happening when things get frustrating. "Your brain grows at the bottom," he said. It's a phrase that refers to the bottom of the learning pit, an imaginary place where students in Hunter's class in Illinois have been taught to go when something they are learning gets difficult. Hunter also knows what he needs to get out of the pit — hard work, his friends, his teacher — and what it feels like when he climbs up and out on the other side ("excited").

The learning pit as a metaphor is one of several common educational strategies that lean into the idea that struggle is something to be embraced. It was conceived in the early 2000s by James Nottingham when he was a teacher in a former mining town in northern England. He saw that his students, many of whom were from low-income families and lived in communities with high unemployment, avoided leaving their comfort zones. He wanted to encourage his students to get comfortable with being a little uncomfortable.

Using frameworks like the learning pit can help children visualize ways to push through by asking for help and stepping up the effort

At a moment when students are reeling from two years of pandemic learning and isolation from their peers, the idea of intentionally making young people uncomfortable may seem misguided. But many educators and learning scientists say that now, as students look to rebuild academic confidence, is a crucial moment for teachers and parents to step back when learning gets hard and to be explicit that the challenge offers rewards.

"The answer isn't taking away challenge, it's giving more tools to deal with challenge," said Carol Dweck, a professor of psychology at Stanford University and an expert on constructive learning mindsets. Instead of saying "kids are too fragile" and refraining from offering difficult tasks, Dweck said, using frameworks like the learning pit can help children visualize ways to push through by asking for help and stepping up the effort.

"It becomes a way of articulating what might in the past have been humiliating and uncomfortable and discouraging," Dweck said.

The idea that struggle is vital to learning is well established, she added. John Hattie, the director of the Melbourne Educational Research Institute at the University of Melbourne,

in Australia, spent 15 years studying the educational factors that most influence learning. In 2017, he published "10 Mindframes for Visible Learning," which identified the factors that work best to accelerate learning. One is striving for challenge and not "just doing your best."

Teachers in the United States and Britain have found that the learning-pit metaphor comes with conceptual handles that are easy to grasp. A student struggling with a math problem can say to the teacher, "I am in the pit with this" — an easier thing for a child to admit than "I don't understand." And a teacher can prepare students to "go into the pit," as if on a spelunking adventure.

"It's such a nice visual for them to see what journey they were about to take with their learning and make it less scary," said Catherine Jennings, Hunter's first-grade teacher at Olympia West Elementary School in central Illinois.

Nottingham, the founder and executive director of the Challenging Learning Group, an education company, said: "My purpose is, instead of giving them clarity, it's creating confusion, or cognitive wobble. Like when you are learning to ride a bike and it wobbles — I am trying to

create that mental wobble so they have to think about it more."

Not stretching students — because there isn't time for the kinds of conversations that make learning interesting and, at times, tricky — can be consequential, especially for marginalized students. Lacey Robinson, president and chief executive of UnboundED, an organization that designs learning to be rigorous and meaningful, said educators sometimes did not have the content knowledge and training to help fill in gaps, and too often had low expectations for Black and brown students. This can cause those students to lose interest in learning; they get relegated to lower-level material and fall further behind.

"We often find that educators use what I call this really illogical model of putting students in a grade level below," Robinson said, "in the hope that they catch up to the grade level they're supposed to be in."

"Your academic identity gets solidified the more you work that muscle," she added. "And you work that muscle due to the rigor and the productive struggle."

Some researchers have gone beyond encouraging struggle to actually design for failure. Manu Kapur,

ogist at ETH Zurich, has spent 17 years showing that students learn new concepts more fully, and retain the knowledge longer, when they engage in what he calls "productive failure" — grappling with a problem before getting instruction on exactly how to do it.

Kapur recently co-wrote a meta-analysis analyzing 53 studies from the past 15 years that examined which teaching strategy was more effective: providing direct instruction on how to complete a problem before practicing it, or providing well-designed questions to provoke thinking on a concept before introducing knowledge about how to tackle it.

The first strategy is widely accepted; teachers have little time to spare, and it is easier to tell students what to do and then have them practice. The latter method seems wildly inefficient: Why let students waste time and develop wrong ideas when a teacher is there to show the "right" way? But Kapur found that students — in middle school, high school and college, from North America, Europe and Asia — performed better when they had to struggle first. Problem-solving practice before learning a concept was significantly more effective than the converse — learning the concept first and then practicing. "We are taking the science of human cognition and learning," Kapur said, "and designing failure-based experiences to help kids learn better."

## EX-ETIQUETTE

### Son's refusal to see depressed mom could be a call for help

By Jann Blackstone

Tribune News Service

**Q:** My children's mother always struggled with depression, but I never saw her as bad as she was at the height of the pandemic. She could not get out of bed. We share our 15-year-old son equally and it got to the point that he refused to go back to his mother's home. I think his refusal made her worse, but he

said he didn't know how to take care of her, and it was just too much for him. Now that things have opened up and his mother is feeling better, he still refuses to return. Should I make him?

**What's good ex-etiquette?**

**A:** Thank you for your question. The pandemic affected us all, but particularly those of us who struggle with depression. Should you make your son return? I'm not sure. But I

can offer you some general advice from the information you have included in your email.

When working with kids whose parents have a mental health diagnosis, there is a common thread of uncertainty. If a parent remains untreated, the child is in a constant state of waiting for the other shoe to drop. I hope your son is not avoiding his mother completely. If

he is, that's a huge red flag about his own mental state.

He needs a professional to walk him through this — and so does his mother.

Those who are depressed often can't see their way out of it. Sometimes people improve on their own as the situation changes. However, if mom couldn't get out of bed, she was right in the middle of a severe depression and needed help. And a 15-year-old

child does not have the emotional wherewithal to be responsible for his mother's well-being under those circumstances.

When he was telling you he didn't know how to take care of her, he was asking for help.

The bottom line here is, if your son is refusing to see his mother, take that as mayday call for help. He needs the support of a professional to educate him and ease his fears.



If a son is refusing to see his mother, take that as mayday call for help, writes Dr. Jann Blackstone. DREAMSTIME

## CELEBRITIES

## Underwood, Aldean win big at awards

From news services

Carrie Underwood and Jason Aldean were the big winners, the Judds reunited, and Kelsea Ballerini turned a tough break into a one-woman house party at Monday's CMT Music Awards.

Underwood and Aldean won video of the year and collaborative video of the year for their duet "If I Didn't Love You" on the show that uses fan votes to honor the best in country music videos.

"This one's all about the fans man," Underwood said as she accepted the belt-buckle CMT trophy for video of the year, a record 25th win for her.

"I'm pretty sure I picked the perfect partner for this song," Aldean said.

The Judds took the stage for the duo's first major awards show performance in over two decades, with Naomi, 76, and her daughter Wynonna, 57, singing their signature 1990 classic "Love Can Build a Bridge."

The show made the best of the last-minute absence of co-host Ballerini, who tested positive for COVID-19 a few days earlier.

Her co-host, actor Anthony Mackie, took the stage alone at the start of the live CBS telecast and introduced a "backup KB," Kane Brown, to help with hosting duties. Brown was also the night's most nominated artist but came up empty.

Ballerini appeared on a big screen from home, decked out in a full awards-show dress in her living room. "This is my normal Monday night, in full glam, with lighting I set up myself, and a remote truck outside," Ballerini said. "I would so much rather be there with you, but I will be popping in all night long."

Miranda Lambert won her eighth CMT award, for female video of the year,



Jason Aldean and Carrie Underwood accept a trophy at the CMT Music Awards on Monday. **MARK HUMPHREY/AP**

for "If I Was a Cowboy." Cody Johnson won male video of the year for "Til You Can't," and Maddie & Tae won best group or duo video for "Woman You Got." At age 69, George Strait won his first CMT award, taking CMT performance of the year for "Is Anybody Goin' to San Antone?" from "CMT Giants: Charley Pride."

**Spears shares pregnancy news:** Britney Spears, less than five months after her conservatorship ended, confused some fans Monday when she posted on Instagram that she's pregnant and apparently married.

"I lost so much weight to go on my Maui trip only to gain it back," the pop star wrote in part Monday.

"I thought 'Geez ... what happened to my stomach???' My husband said 'No you're food pregnant silly!!!' So I got a pregnancy test ... and uhuhhhh well ... I am having a baby."

Spears, 40, didn't name partner Sam Asghari as the "husband."

Asghari, 28, added an Instagram post of his own accompanied by a painting of a lion family with three members.

"Marriage and kids are

a natural part of a strong relationship filled with love and respect. Fatherhood is something I have always looked forward to and I don't take lightly," he wrote.

**Maddow returns to MSNBC:** MSNBC's Rachel Maddow returned to the air Monday with some bad news for her fans: Starting next month, she will be doing her prime-time show only once a week.

After working her customary five nights a week for the rest of April, Maddow said, she will work on Monday nights only starting in May. The network said it will rotate guest hosts the other four weeknights on a show called "MSNBC Prime."

Maddow had been on hiatus for the past two months.

**April 13 birthdays:** Actor Paul Sorvino is 83. Singer Lester Chambers is 82. Actor Tony Dow is 77. Musician Al Green is 76. Actor Ron Perlman is 72. Singer Peabo Bryson is 71. Actor Caroline Rhea is 58. Actor Ricky Schroder is 52. Actor Bokeem Woodbine is 49. Rapper Ty Dolla \$ign is 40. Actor Allison Williams is 34.

**Dear Amy:** I've become good friends with a co-worker who started at the same job I did over 12 years ago.

I've received raises, including two after I changed departments.

In a recent conversation with my co-worker, they disclosed that they have not had one raise in all their time with the company.

When I was given my raises, I was always told it was confidential, and I've kept it quiet. My friend has asked several times and has been told that no raises are being given.

They have a good track record with the company and have done well in meeting their goals.

Should I say something to the co-worker about my pay increases?

My friend is thinking of looking for a new job.

— *Feeling Guilty*

**Dear Feeling Guilty:** This is from NLRB.gov: "Under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA or the Act), employees have the right to communicate with other employees at their workplace about their wages. Wages are a vital term and condition of employment, and discussions of wages are often preliminary to organizing or other actions for mutual aid or protection."

Further, they write: "When you and another employee have a conversation or communication about your pay, it is unlawful for your employer to punish or retaliate against you in any way for having that conversation."

Employers tell employees to keep their salaries confidential because it is in

the employer's best interests for their employees to be kept in the dark about co-workers' compensation.

Review your company's official policies and any employment agreement you may have signed.

Unless you agreed in writing to keep your own salary confidential, then you should be free to exercise your right to disclose it.

And yes — your friend should get another job.

**Dear Amy:** The letter from "Mourning" about the emotions surrounding keeping pets alive when they are suffering really got me.

My friend has the same problem with her old and blind spaniel.

I had to make the decision with my own 17-year-old pet, but took the vet's advice that quality of life was gone and had to think of the animal, not me.

My friend knows what she should do, but she can't. Is there anything you can say to ease the choice?

— *Sad*

**Dear Sad:** Some vets offer "hospice" or end-of-life palliative care for animals. You might do some research and see if there is a vet in your area who will examine her pup.

This is from ASPCA.org: "Pet hospice is not a place, but a personal choice and philosophy based on the principle that death is a part of life and can be dignified. When considering hospice care, pet parents should be very careful not to prolong the suffering of pets who are in pain or experiencing poor quality of life."

I went through this with my 20-year-old tabby cat.

I chose to have him euthanized, and my buddy died at home with me petting him and thanking him for gracing my life.

As with any life event that is absolutely guaranteed to also be heartbreaking — this is easier to face with a friend's support.

You can ask if she would like you to go with her when she is ready to go through this process.

**Dear Amy:** "Sad Mad Daughter," who was now caring for her abusive and elderly mother, could be me.

The thing that is hardest to take is looking at your vulnerable, lonely, isolated, helpless elderly parent and realizing they were looking at a vulnerable, lonely, isolated, helpless child and could actually emotionally and physically abuse that child!

I know my mother didn't ask for her mental disorder. She is in a nursing home near me; I visit a few times a week and make sure she has everything she needs.

She has taken so much from me, gosh darn it, she will not dictate the kind of attentive daughter I want to be, and get to be, to an elderly parent.

I — not her — get to control how I want to be, and it's a great feeling.

— *Kathy, in Virginia*

**Dear Kathy:** This is next-level wisdom, earned the hardest way possible. I think your perspective could help a lot of people.

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## ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

## Co-worker wonders about disclosing raises

**Dear Amy:** I've become good friends with a co-worker who started at the same job I did over 12 years ago.

I've received raises, including two after I changed departments.

In a recent conversation with my co-worker, they disclosed that they have not had one raise in all their time with the company.

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— *Feeling Guilty*

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Employers tell employees to keep their salaries confidential because it is in

## HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

**Aries (March 21-April 19):** Opportunities to improve must come from within.

Looking for approval from others may end in disappointment, and trying to deny this will likely backfire. Make sure you aren't following the crowd away from who you are.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Unconscious hurts can rise to the surface. You could have an emotional outburst without properly channeling your emotions, leading to embarrassment and confusion. Even if friends try to comfort you, you may turn them away.

Try to release any intense feelings through journaling before they boil over.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20):** An introspective attitude can reveal your best path to friendship. You may be dealing with loneliness, whether you're on your own or surrounded by people. Instead of trying to force someone to listen, look inside and envision what your perfect friend group would look like.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22):** The call to take charge may come for you. You might normally shy away from leadership because people in your life could have described you as an emotional decision-maker. Contrary to their thoughts, your empathy can help you act as the best leader for this job!

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** A personal mindset may no longer be benefiting you.

A long-held habit could actually be holding you back! Routinely being critical, whether to yourself or others, can make you feel more in control, but you lose strength in other vital areas. You don't have to be afraid of vulnerability.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):** Someone could knock your confidence by presenting you with a version of yourself that they've idealized.

Even if they're doing this to help you, it's OK to let them know that this isn't a positive influence. As eager as you may be to please, their version of you will not become your reality.

to win an Academy Award for his performance in "Lilies of the Field."

**In 1970**, Apollo 13, four-fifths of the way to the moon, was crippled when a tank containing liquid oxygen burst.

**In 1997**, Tiger Woods became the youngest person to win the Masters Tournament and the first player of partly African

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Work and home could be out of balance. Your family and friends could be concerned that they don't see you, while your job is complaining you don't work enough. This isn't meant to stress you out, but to alert you to the imbalance so that you're able to make a difference today.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** A dramatic change could be in order. Words from someone that you respect can hurt you, but what they're saying is a wake-up call. This is an opportunity, not an insult! Let the feelings that may come in response to their constructive criticism motivate you rather than drag you down.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You might be tired of looking at the same four walls but want to hang on to their security. It's OK to be attached to your home, but spending too much time in one place can create stagnation. You've likely been hearing the cosmos telling you to get out, and it's time to honor this.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):** Someone could knock your confidence by presenting you with a version of yourself that they've idealized. Even if they're doing this to help you, it's OK to let them know that this isn't a positive influence. As eager as you may be to please, their version of you will not become your reality.

heritage to claim a major golf title.

**In 2009**, music producer Phil Spector was found guilty by a Los Angeles jury of second-degree murder in the shooting of actor Lana Clarkson.

**In 2016**, the Golden State Warriors became the NBA's first 73-win team by beating the Memphis Grizzlies 125-104.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

**On April 13, 1953**, "Casino Royale," Ian Fleming's first James Bond novel, was published in London.

**In 1964**, Sidney Poitier became the first Black performer in a leading role

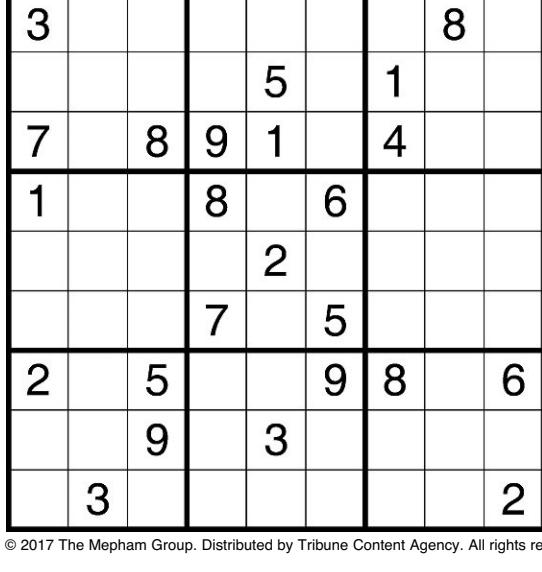
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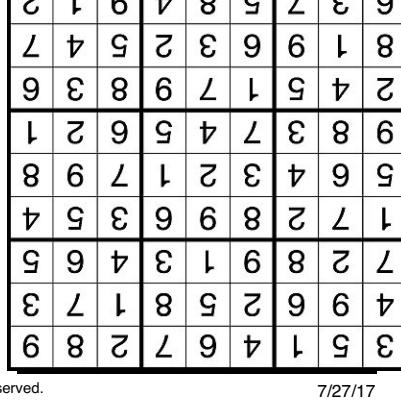
## SUDOKU



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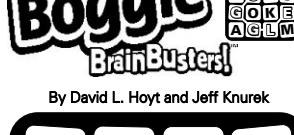
Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).



7/27/17

## BOGGLE



INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by taking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

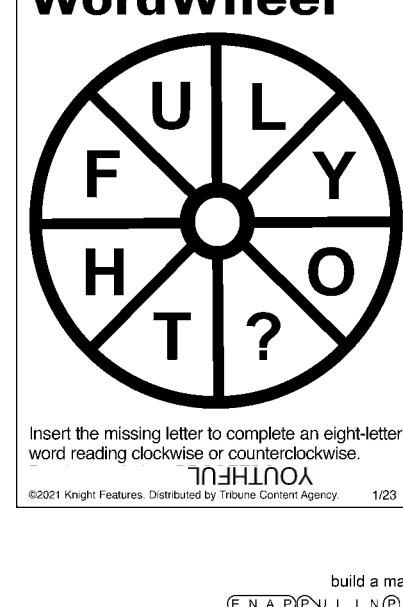
BOGGLE POINT SCALE YOUR BOGGLE RATING  
3 letters = 1 point 151+ = Champ  
4 letters = 2 points 101-150 = Expert  
5 letters = 3 points 61-100 = Pro  
6 letters = 4 points 31-60 = Beginner  
7 letters = 6 points 21-30 = Rookie  
8 letters = 10 points 11-20 = Amateur  
9+ letters = 15 points 0-10 = Try again



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1-20-20

LATIN GALLE, FRENCH ITALIAN

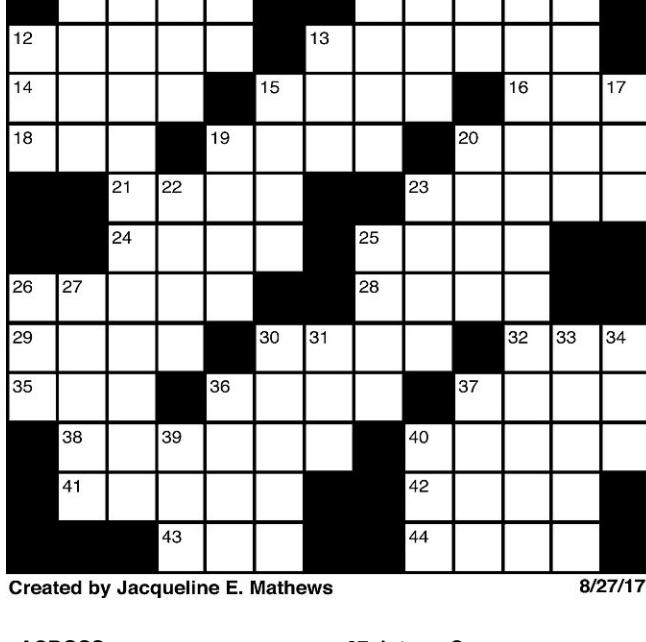


Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

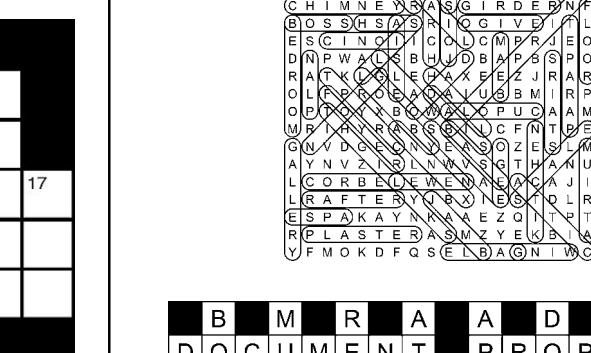
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## TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

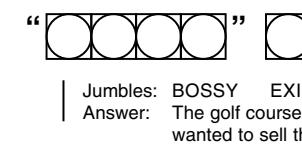
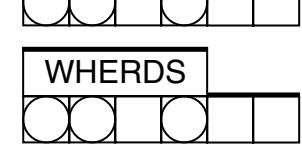
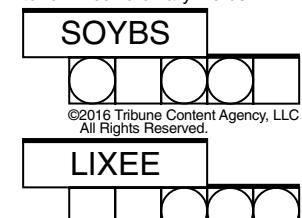


build a mansion

JUMBLE

**JUMBLE**

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME  
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



"**FOR SALE**"



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: BOSSY EXILE UNTOLD SHREWED

Answer: The golf course was for sale. The owner wanted to sell the — "HOLE" BUSINESS

## ACROSS

- 1 Meara or Murray
- 5 Elly May Clampett's pa
- 8 Jagger
- 9 Durance of "Smallville"
- 12 Daughter of Desi Arnaz Sr.
- 13 Gabor's costar on "Green Acres"
- 14 Invites
- 15 "The \_\_\_"; Anderson Cooper game show
- 16 Anger
- 18 Oldest daughter in "Little Women"
- 19 Mrs. Herman Munster Bewildered
- 21 One of John-Boy's sisters
- 23 Change slightly
- 24 "The Parent \_\_\_"
- 25 Jai \_\_\_; fast-paced sport
- 26 Beauty parlor
- 28 Actor Rex \_\_\_
- 29 Fissure; split
- 30 Suspenders alternative
- 32 In the past
- 35 Dallas univ.
- 36 Whip severely

- 37 Actress Cannon
- 38 \_\_\_ de corps; camaraderie
- 40 Eric \_\_\_; role on "NCIS: Los Angeles"
- 41 Rob or Will
- 42 Annapolis acad.
- 43 Commers
- 44 Uses a shovel

## DOWN

- 1 Make laugh
- 2 Actor on "Chicago Med"
- 3 Series for Rocky Carroll
- 4 \_\_\_ out a living; get by
- 5 Bread spread
- 6 Actress Kathryn
- 7 "\_\_\_ Hard"; Bruce Willis movie
- 10 Role on "Grey's Anatomy"
- 11 "\_\_\_ Grows in Brooklyn"; film for Dorothy McGuire
- 12 On the \_\_\_; fleeing
- 13 E-mail provider for millions
- 15 "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless \_\_\_"; movie for Jim Carrey
- 17 Word with wax or muffs
- 19 "The \_\_\_ King"; blockbuster animated film
- 20 Role on "Two and a Half Men"
- 22 Underground plant part
- 23 Landed
- 25 Daughter on "Everybody Loves Raymond"
- 26 Yrbk. section
- 27 Teegarden of "Friday Night Lights"
- 30 Great happiness
- 31 "Please Don't \_\_\_ the Daisies"
- 33 Celebrations
- 34 "\_\_\_ Life to Live"
- 36 MacMurray or Savage
- 37 Ricky Ricardo's portrayer
- 39 "Harper Valley \_\_\_"
- 40 Son on "Father Knows Best"

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9/3/17

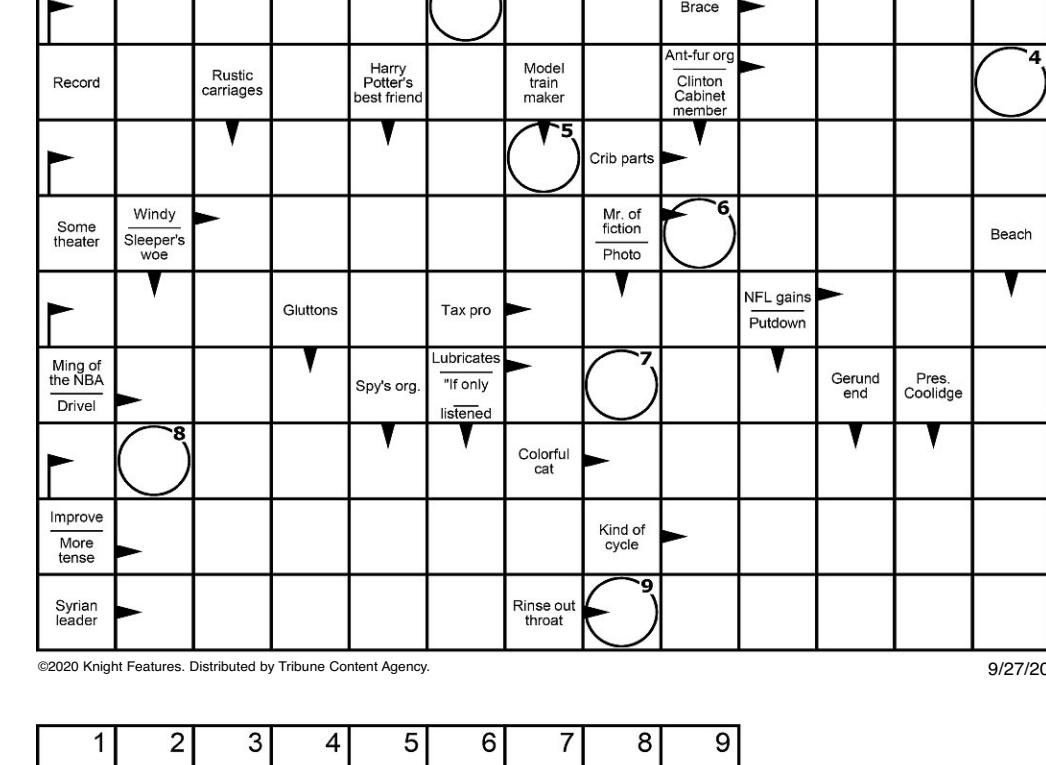
1-20-20

ANNE JED  
MICK ERICA  
LUCIE ALBERT  
ASKS MOLE IRE  
MEG LILY ASE  
ERIN ALTE  
HOOD ALAI  
SALON LINN  
RIFT BELT AGO  
SMUFLAY DYAN  
ESPRIT BEALE  
ESTES USNA  
ADS DIGS

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44

## ARROW WORDS

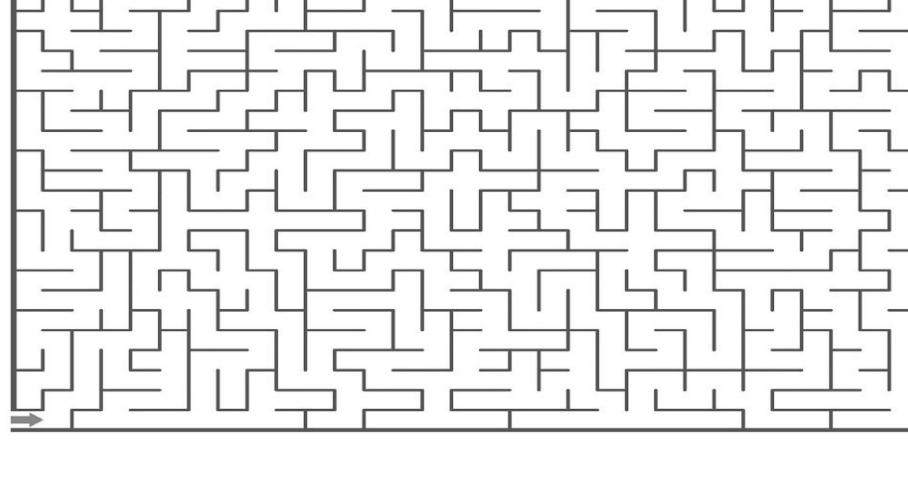
Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

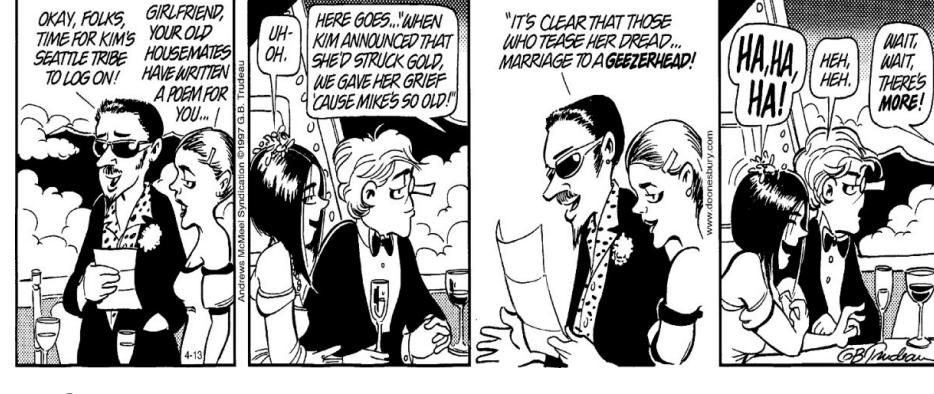
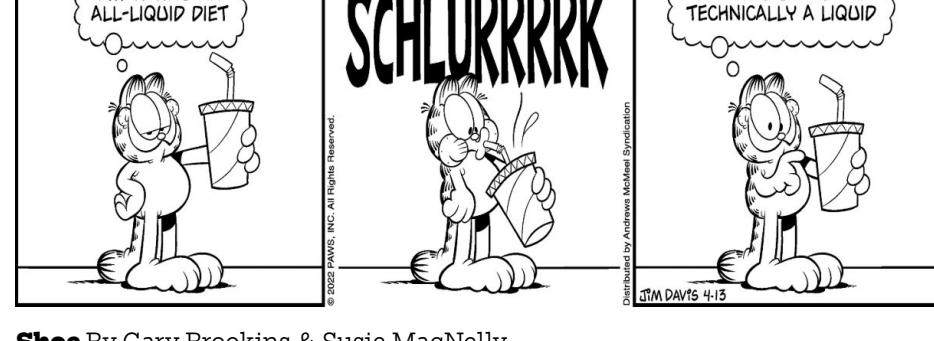
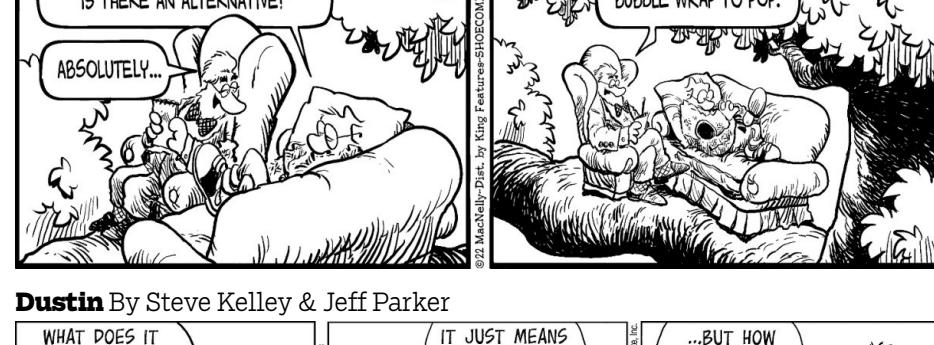
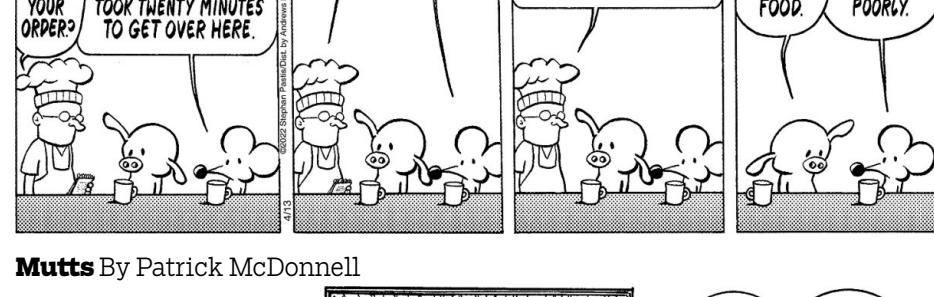
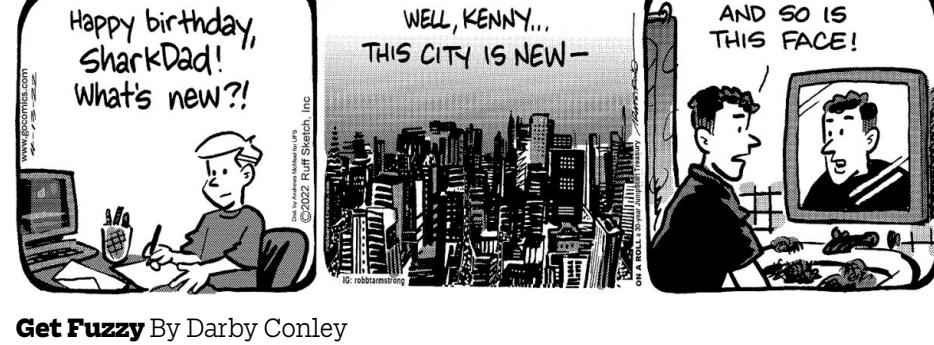
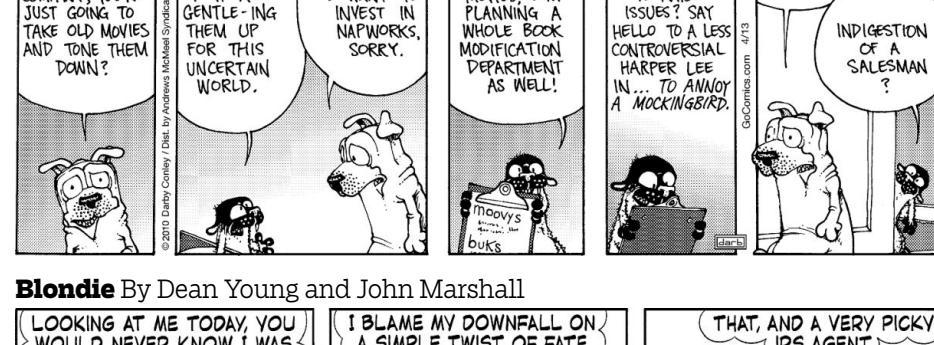
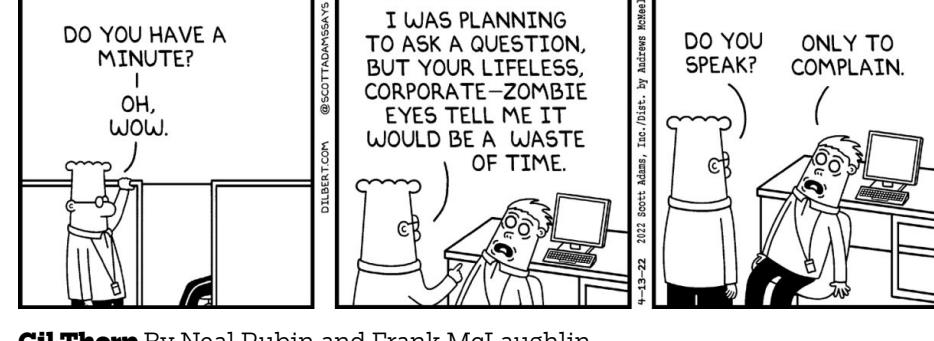
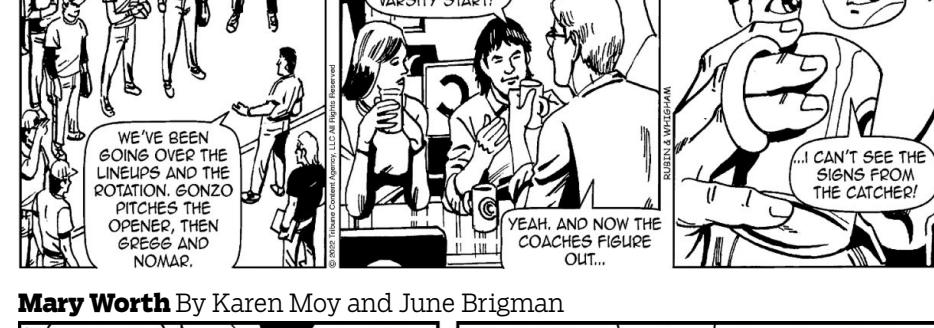
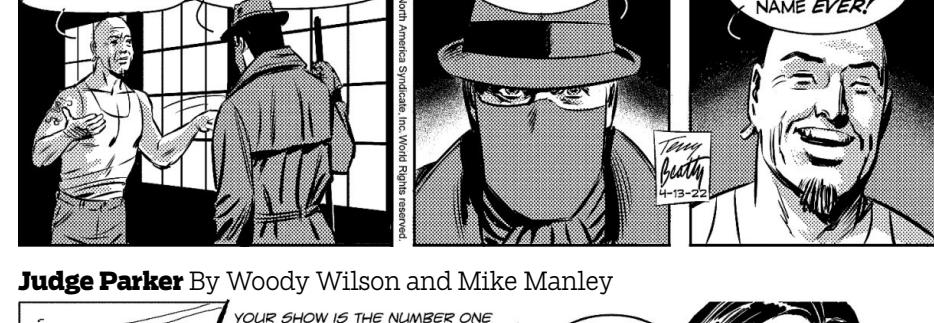
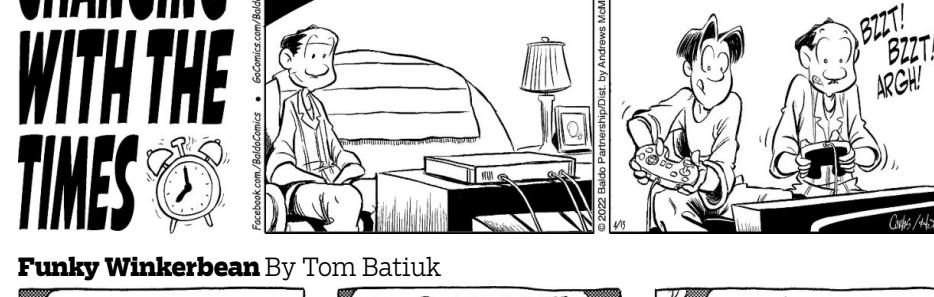
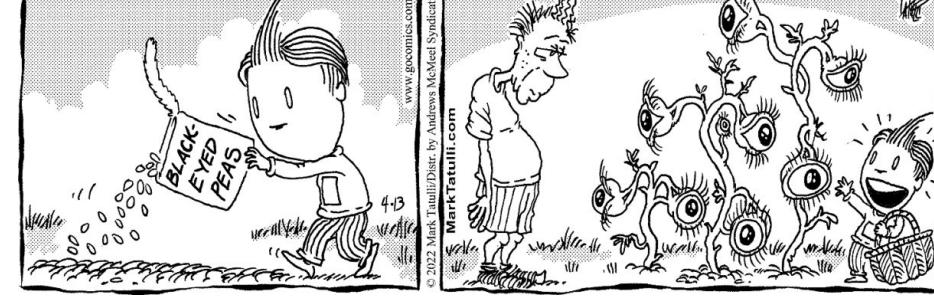
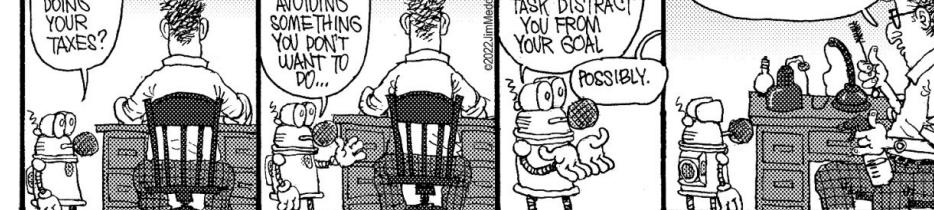


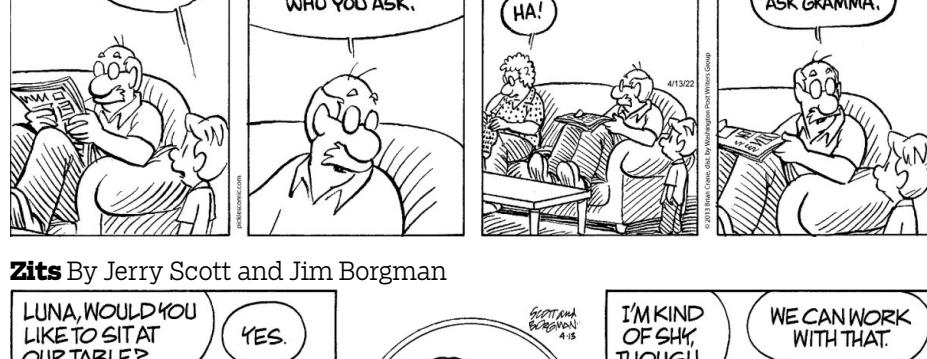
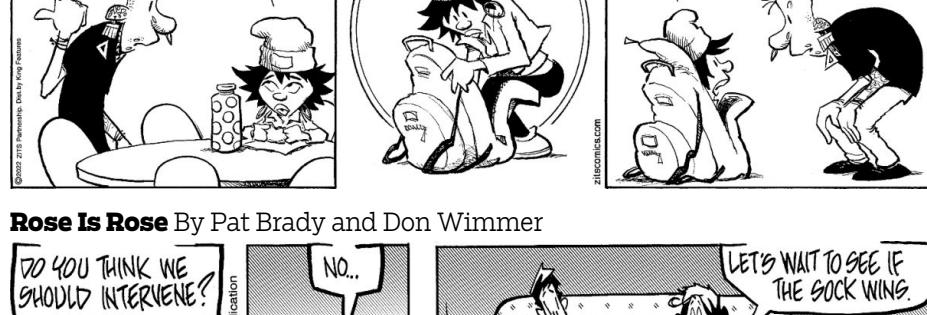
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9/27/20

## KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



**Peanuts** By Charles M. Schulz**Classic Doonesbury** By Garry Trudeau**Garfield** By Jim Davis**Shoe** By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly**Dustin** By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker**Pearls Before Swine** By Stephan Pastis**Mutts** By Patrick McDonnell**Arctic Circle** By Alex Hallatt**Jump Start** By Robb Armstrong**Get Fuzzy** By Darby Conley**Blondie** By Dean Young and John Marshall**Dilbert** By Scott Adams**Gil Thorp** By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin**Mary Worth** By Karen Moy and June Brigman**Rex Morgan, M.D.** By Terry Beatty**Judge Parker** By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley**Baldo** By Cantu and Castellanos**Funky Winkerbean** By Tom Batiuk**Lio** By Mark Tatulli**Wizard Of Id** By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker**Rhymes With Orange** By Hilary Price**Monty** By Jim Meddick

**For Better Or For Worse** By Lynn Johnston**B.C.** By Hart**Beetle Bailey** by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker**Hi & Lois** By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne**Hagar The Horrible** By Chris Browne**Non Sequitur** By Wiley Miller**Curtis** By Ray Billingsley**Pickles** By Brian Crane**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman**Rose Is Rose** By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer**Mother Goose And Grimm** By Mike Peters**CROSSWORD**

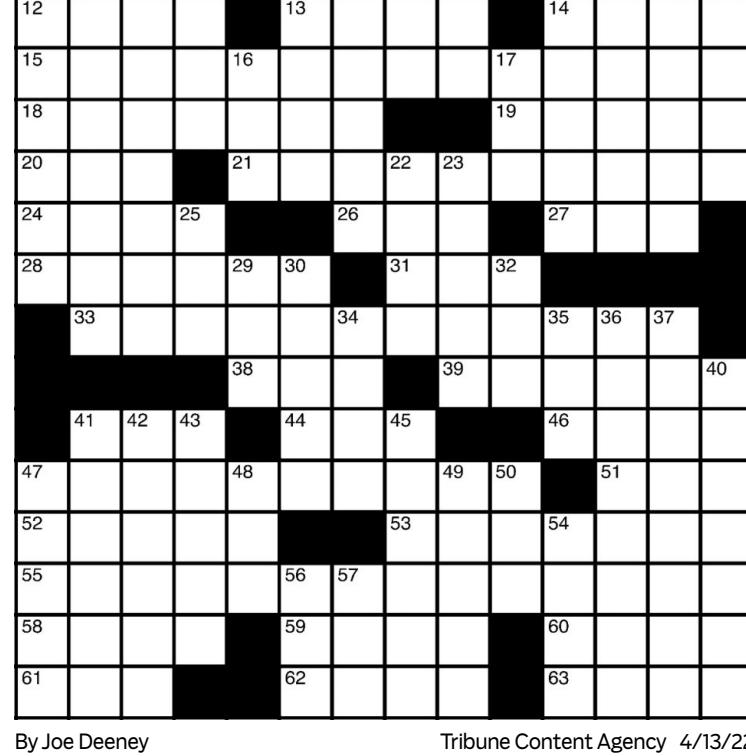
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**Across**

- 1 L.A. Rams' — McVay, youngest head coach to win the Super Bowl
- 5 Fly high
- 9 Old NCAA football ranking sys.
- 12 Regarding
- 13 Limerick's land
- 14 Coagulate
- 15 Test format with options
- 18 Grassland
- 19 Using pointe shoes
- 20 Didn't stick around
- 21 Dojo move
- 24 Card game requirement, maybe
- 26 —pitch
- 27 Farm female
- 28 Roman who defeated Hannibal
- 31 Triage areas: Abbr.
- 33 Bat specialty, and what you need to find in four long answers
- 38 Name in "Kill Bill" credits
- 39 Military jeep successor
- 41 Aid for the lost
- 44 They're not from around here, briefly
- 46 Lowly worker
- 47 Nocturnal bird that woke up Vinny in "My Cousin Vinny"
- 51 Messenger —
- 52 As is fitting
- 53 41-Across, e.g.
- 55 Cocoa butter confection
- 58 Golfer's pocketful
- 59 Sell on the street
- 60 Series finale: Abbr.
- 61 " — the ramparts ... "
- 62 Dire Maritime
- 63 Slithery swimmers

**Down**

- 1 Longtime Agassi rival
- 2 Online GEICO alternative
- 3 Brit's pond
- 4 "It wasn't me"
- 5 Photo tint
- 6 Persian Gulf ships
- 7 Word shortened to its middle letter, in texts
- 8 "Parks and —"
- 9 Devil-may-care
- 10 Protective covering
- 11 So inclined?
- 14 Large sea snail
- 16 Bug
- 17 Soil-moving implement
- 22 Jack Ryan portrayer before Harrison
- 23 Holy scroll
- 25 Book after Galatians: Abbr.
- 29 Chit
- 30 Ancient Mesoamerican
- 32 Guy found running through the alphabet?
- 34 Court recitation



By Joe Deeney

Tribune Content Agency 4/13/22

**BRIDGE**

BY STEVE BECKER

East dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

## NORTH

♦ K 10 5  
♥ Q 9 8 2  
♦ K  
♣ K Q J 9 6

## WEST

♠ J 8 4 2  
♥ 6 3  
♦ J 7 6 5 3  
♣ 5 2

## EAST

♠ A Q 7  
♥ 5  
♦ A Q 10 8 4 2  
♣ A 10 3

## SOUTH

♠ 9 6 3  
♥ A K J 10 7 4  
♦ 9  
♣ 8 7 4

The bidding:  
East South West North  
1 ♦ 2 ♥ Pass 4 ♥

Opening lead — five of diamonds.

**Active defense**

In many deals, the best method of defense is to play possum and simply wait to collect the tricks declarer must inevitably lose. This is called passive defense.

In other deals, it is necessary to be more aggressive in order to establish your side's tricks before declarer can establish his.

These deals require active defense.

There is no hard-and-fast rule that tells you when to adopt one type of defense or the other. Each deal has its own particular set of circumstances, with the bidding, the dummy, the early play and many other considerations determining which form of defense to adopt. In the final analysis, good judgment is the critical factor.

Assume you're East in today's deal, defending against four hearts. West leads a diamond, which you win with the ace. What should you return?

If you opt for the passive approach, you lead a trump. This does not turn out well after declarer wins, draws trump and forces out your ace of clubs. He loses only a spade, a diamond and a club, and so makes the contract.

But if you lead a spade at trick two — either a low one or the ace followed by another spade — you beat the contract, ultimately scoring two spades, a diamond and a club.

For this method of defense to succeed, declarer must have at least three spades and your partner must have the jack, which is certainly not an impossibility. If he doesn't have it, you're fighting a losing cause whatever you do, and your active defense will have cost you nothing.

**Tomorrow:** Duck soup.

**JUMBLE**

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

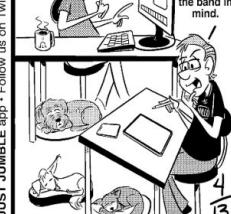
KELBA

SAIAL

CWNERH

ORADUN

GELBON



THERE WILL BE JUMBLE CARTOONS EVERY DAY AS THE CARTOONIST DOESN'T ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: 

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: YIELD HURRY IGUANA HYPHEN

Answer: The unemployment rate drops when the number of people getting jobs goes — "HIRE" AND "HIRE"

**TODAY'S SUDOKU**Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box in bold borders contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

C R A B   S W A T S   A C E S

H A T E   H E A R T   L A I N

E V E R Y   O T H E R   I D E A

R E A R E D   M I C   D I F

W A N   G O O D   O N Y   Y O U

E R A   T O R R E N T

B O Y S   S C O U T   G E N E S

B L A T A N T   S E A S A L T

S E T O N   D O E S T I M E

L O G   B O O K   L O W

F I N E P R I N T   O M S

O N E   Y A K   G R E A S E

R A R E   T R E B L E C L E F

U N D O   E A G L E   C O A T

M E S S   S M O T E   A N T S

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

C R A B   S W A T S   A C E S

H A T E   H E A R T   L A I N

E V E R Y   O T H E R   I D E A

R E A R E D   M I C   D I F

W A N   G O O D   O N Y   Y O U

E R A   T O R R E N T

B O Y S   S C O U T   G E N E S

B L A T A N T   S E A S A L T

S E T O N   D O E S T I M E

L O G   B O O K   L O W

F I N E P R I N T   O M S

O N E   Y A K   G R E A S E

R A R E   T R E B L E C L E F

U N D O   E A G L E   C O A T

M E S S   S M O T E   A N T S

C R A B   S W A T S   A C E S

H A T E   H E A R T   L A I N

E V E R Y   O T H E R   I D E A

R E A R E D   M I C   D I F

W A N   G O O D   O N Y   Y O U

E R A   T O R R E N T

B O Y S   S C O U T   G E N E S

B L A T A N T   S E A S A L T

S E T O N   D O E S T I M E

L O G   B O O K   L O W

F I N E P R I N T   O M S

O N E   Y A K   G R E A S E

R A R E   T R E B L E C L E F

U N D O   E A G L E   C O A T

M E S S   S M O T E   A N T S

C R A B   S W A T S   A C E S

H A T E   H E A R T   L A I N

E V E R Y   O T H E R   I D E A

R E A R E D   M I C   D I F

W A N   G O O D   O N Y   Y O U

E R A   T O R R E N T

B O Y S   S C O U T   G E N E S

B L A T A N T   S E A S A L T

S E T O N   D O E S T I M E

L O G   B O O K   L O W

F I N E P R I N T   O M S

O N E   Y A K   G R E A S E

R A R E   T R E B L E C L E F

U N D O   E A G L E   C O A T

M E S S   S M O T E   A N T S

C R A B   S W A T S   A C E S

H A T E   H E A R T   L A I N

E V E R Y   O T H E R   I D E A

R E A R E D   M I C   D I F

W A N   G O O D   O N

# How a crisis led a mom to just show up



Heidi Stevens

Balancing Act

I met two friends for dinner a few nights ago and we immediately dispensed with the niceties and got down to the real stuff, in the way that friends straddling both sides of 50 often do.

Deb and her family have endured a tremendously painful two years. Her oldest daughter struggles with anxiety and depression and was harming herself. The family sought and found treatment and, as so many of us tend to do, kept their pain a secret from their community of friends.

Until they didn't.

Deb's daughter decided to share her story with her peers and even gave a talk at her high school about it. Deb and her husband began to tell close friends and neighbors, the families with whom they'd spent their lives — nanny shares, play dates, holiday parties — for the past couple decades.

"We didn't want our struggle to be wasted," Deb said.

They discovered that nine other families close to them were going through extremely similar circumstances. Nine other kids in crisis, just in their circle.

"By talking about it, not only did it create capacities for us to be relationally more supported and connected — and I'm sure more relationally judged, I don't want to be all Suzy Sunshine on this one," Deb said. "But what it also made available was nine other families now are living more authentic versions of their own lives."

Deb said that last part on a podcast I host with family therapist John Duffy. Her



We are, so many of us, walking around injured or injuring, scared or scarred, judged or judging, not sure what, if anything, to say, writes Heidi Stevens. MARYANA SERDYNASKA/DREAMSTIME

family's story, especially this next part, felt so crucial to this moment that I asked if she'd come on and share it with others. She generously agreed.

A few weeks after Deb and her family started telling people about what her daughter was enduring, Deb ran into a longtime friend at the store.

"The first thing she did in her greeting with me was move into a three- or four-minute diatribe about what a terrible friend she had been, 'I'm the worst friend. I'm so sorry. I should have called. I didn't call,'" Deb relayed. "And there was this real sense that she was seeking my forgiveness and comfort. I can tell you that in the headspace I was in,

I was happy to let her off the hook. Happy to say, 'It's OK, no problem.'

"But I can just tell you," Deb continued, "if your first instinct is to get someone who's struggling to comfort you because you feel guilty or you feel badly? That's not a good use of the emotional energy in the exchange."

Next, the friend went down a path that had become all too familiar for Deb.

"This happens particularly when the conversation turns to self-harm or suicide," Deb said. "She started to relay to me a number of stories that she was aware of, of people either in her own immediate community or things

she'd heard on the news. And often people will tell you the stories about children they know, or families they know, about a child they know who was successful in killing themselves."

Deb understood, she said, even in the moment, that it came from a good place, an attempt to relate. But it chipped away at Deb's sense of safety.

And then Deb's friend relayed her own fears

— that so many kids she knows are struggling, that kids she watched grow up are struggling, that this all might mean her own kids will start struggling.

"How it landed for me," Deb said, "as the parent who's already steeped in

pain and shame and struggle, is that it confirmed my worst fear: that she was concerned my kid was contagious."

But this isn't a story about judgment or betrayal. This is a story about grace and growth.

"I thought, 'Bless her heart,'" Deb said. "She just wants to love on me right now. She just wants to be empathetic. She just wants to be reflective of her own distress about my distress, and yet her first three

responses were injurious.

"And I think of my first three responses when I've been in this experience with people," Deb continued. "I've been injurious. I've been unsafe in my rescuing, trying to fix. Let

me make a connection! Let me introduce you to people!"

Haven't we all?

Duffy said his therapy clients tell him stories of seeing their friends duck down a different aisle at the store to avoid a tough conversation, to avoid being called on to comfort.

Deb left the store that day determined to do two things: Continue to love her friend, and find a way to help other people show up for each other.

She posted something on LinkedIn about looking for trauma specialists to interview. A contact connected her to Jen Marr, the founder of Inspiring Comfort, an organization that offers training — to individuals, workplaces, schools — on how to care and comfort each other in the wake of trauma. Deb reached out to her.

Marr has a new book out called "Showing Up: A Comprehensive Guide to Comfort & Connection" (New Degree Press). Deb is giving copies to all her friends.

"And not comfort like a cozy noun," Deb said. "Comfort like the strength of coming together in community and bringing strength in community."

We're going to need it. We have been needing it. We are, so many of us, walking around injured or injuring, scared or scarred, judged or judging, not sure what, if anything, to say.

I love the idea of getting intentional about doing better, being better. As bell hooks told us, and I love to repeat: "Rarely, if ever, are any of us healed in isolation."

Heidi Stevens is a Tribune News Service columnist. You can reach her at [heidistevens@gmail.com](mailto:heidistevens@gmail.com), find her on Twitter @heidistevens13 or join her Heidi Stevens' Balancing Act Facebook group.



WINDOWS • SIDING • DOORS

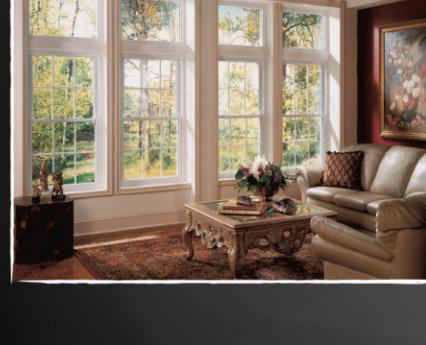
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# Hartford Courant

# SPORTS

COURANT.COM/SPORTS

RED SOX 5, TIGERS 3

## Devers singles past shift for win

Boston comes back after Detroit makes it 3-0 in the third inning

By Dana Gauruder  
Associated Press

DETROIT — Rafael Devers singled through the open shortstop area with the infield shifted to the right side, driving in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning Tuesday as the Boston Red Sox overcame a three-run deficit to beat the Detroit Tigers 5-3.

"Teams are going to attack him a certain way and he feels like he has to swing hard. It's the other way around," Boston manager Alex Cora said. "Just take what they give you. That's the mark of a professional hitter."

Garrett Whitlock (1-0) pitched four hitless innings to win in his first appearance since the Red Sox announced his \$18.75 million, four-year contract on Sunday.

Hirokazu Sawamura also got two outs in hitless relief of starter Rich Hill, who allowed three runs and five hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Cora ideally wanted Hill to go five innings and have Whitlock pitch the last four. The plan almost worked to perfection.

"They're going to load up with righties against Rich," Cora said. "He can get them out and then we

*Turn to Sox, Page 2*

### YANKEES

## Cole, Yanks need to set tone early vs. Blue Jays

By Kristie Ackert  
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Gerrit Cole needs to settle in. The Yankees ace did not get off to the start to the season he and the team wanted. Wednesday night, Cole needs to find that routine and rhythm early against a tough Blue Jays lineup that very well could be the team the Yankees are battling down the stretch for a playoff spot.

Cole couldn't find that comfort zone on Opening Day, so Wednesday night is a chance to start over.

"When you're missing that bad there are mechanical breakdowns, but I'd say overall my mechanics are in a good spot. I just had a lot of adrenaline and just kind of spun my tires there for a minute," Cole said Tuesday before the Yankees tried to rebound against the Blue Jays after two straight losses. "So maybe to find the rhythm and the tempo to just kind of stay with myself a little better."

Cole did not record a decision on Opening Day, allowing three earned runs on four hits. He walked one and struck out three in four innings. His day was more remembered for him being caught on camera complaining about the pregame ceremonies going longer than expected.

*Turn to Yankees, Page 2*



UConn's Christyn Williams shoots as Villanova's Lucy Olsen, back, defends on March 7 in Uncasville, Conn. JESSICA HILL/AP

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COMMENTARY

## Williams wasn't in NYC but she'll take Washington

Says she's motivated to join team, do what's necessary to succeed

Christyn Williams had it in mind's eye. The night of the 2022 WNBA Draft would be her night in the big city, surrounded by glamour and glitz. When she came to UConn as the national player of the year, who would have imagined it any other way?

"Well, what I dreamed of growing up was actually being in New York at the draft," Williams said. "But that's part of life, very unfortunate."

Instead, Williams, eight days after UConn's loss to South Carolina, was back home in Little



Dom Amore

Rock, Ark., surrounded by 60 relatives, all five brothers and sisters, and friends in the village that helped prepare her for the ups and downs of life.

Manhattan? Some other time. Next stop: Washington.

"I've had a great experience in Little Rock, in front of my family and friends, just waiting for my name to be called," she said. "It was a dream come true and I wouldn't change it for the world."

I'm just super excited and grateful to be a part of the league and get to work and ..."

Here Mike Thibault, coach and general manager of the Washington Mystics who chose Williams, unmuted and chimed in.

"I want you to have a chip on your shoulder about not getting invited to New York," he told Williams.

"Oh, for sure," Williams said, giggling. "That killer mentality we talked about. That's just part of the fuel."

When Williams and teammates Olivia Nelson-Ododa and Evina Westbrook were not invited to attend the draft at Spring Studios

*Turn to Amore, Page 4*



Southington's Sam Rogers hits a triple during Tuesday's game against Hall in West Hartford. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

SOFTBALL SOUTHINGTON 18, HALL 4

## Southington shows up ready, hammers Hall

By Lori Riley  
Hartford Courant

WEST HARTFORD — Last April, the first time Southington High faced Hall pitcher Sophie Garner-MacKinnon, she struck out 19 Blue Knights, though Southington won the game.

Hall and Southington played two more times last year and each time, Southington improved its discipline against Garner-MacKinnon, who is headed to Duke next year, and won both times, including the Class LL semifinal.

Tuesday, the two CCC teams faced each other for the first time

this season. Southington, the defending Class LL champion, had lost six starters to graduation and its catcher to an injury before the game. But the Blue Knights who came back showed they had mastered the discipline needed to face a pitcher like Garner-MacKinnon, a senior.

They came out swinging, scoring three runs in the first, batting around in the second and fourth innings and cruising to an 18-4 win in five innings over Hall.

Junior Sam Rogers hit for the cycle, with a 3-run home run to left in the second inning and drove in eight runs for Southington (2-0).

"We expected to get better since last year," Rogers said. "In the semifinals we really improved. We just came in, looking to hit hard and that's what we did."

Leadoff batter Ashley Desaulniers scored four runs and had a solo home run in the second inning.

"I respect Sophie and her game and how good of a pitcher she is, so we had a very strategic game plan coming in to this week," Southington coach Davina Hernandez said.

"A lot of those at-bats could have easily resulted in strikeouts with poor discipline but our mindset has been discipline, discipline, discipline since the start of the

year. We've stacked our schedule this year, this is probably the strongest schedule we've had since I've been here. We're seeing great pitching all year long."

"Today was about picking the right pitches and not swinging at what we call the chase pitches and the balls that Sophie was trying to get us to chase, we didn't."

Southington pitchers Sam Sullivan (who got the win), Stella Blanchard and Maddie Furniss combined for 12 strikeouts. Southington led 9-0 after two innings and 18-1 after four.

*Turn to Softball, Page 4*

## Did you know?

Wearing a properly-fitted helmet is the best way to prevent head injuries and death while riding a bike.

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**SPORTS****UP NEXT**

**Celtics:** NBA First Round vs. TBD (Game 1), Sunday, time TBD; NBA First Round vs. TBD (Game 2), date/time TBD; NBA First Round vs. TBD (Game 3), date/time TBD

**Bruins:** Senators, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Penguins, Saturday, 12:30 p.m.; at Blues, Tuesday, 8 p.m.

**Rangers:** at Flyers, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Red Wings, Saturday, 12:30 p.m.; Jets, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

**Wolf Pack:** at Belleville, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Toronto, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Rochester, Saturday, 7 p.m.

**Red Sox:** at Tigers, Wednesday, 1 p.m.; Twins, Friday, 2 p.m.; Twins, Saturday, 4 p.m.

**Yankees:** Blue Jays, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Blue Jays, Thursday, 7 p.m.; at Orioles, Friday, 7 p.m.

**Mets:** at Phillies, Wednesday, 1 p.m.; Diamondbacks, Friday, 1 p.m.; Diamondbacks, Saturday, 1 p.m.

**Yard Goats:** at New Hampshire, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.; at New Hampshire, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.; at New Hampshire, Friday, 6:30 p.m.

**TV/RADIO****BASEBALL**

**12 p.m.:** Regional Coverage. (Live) MLB

**1 p.m.:** Boston Red Sox at Detroit Tigers. (Live) SPRTNESN

**1 p.m.:** Boston Red Sox at Detroit Tigers. (Live), NESN. Radio: 1080.

**1 p.m.:** New York Mets at Philadelphia Phillies. (Live), SNY. Radio: 880.

**3:30 p.m.:** Regional Coverage. (Live) MLB

**6:30 p.m.:** Lehigh Valley IronPigs at Worcester Red Sox. (Live) NESN

**7 p.m.:** Regional Coverage. (Live) MLB

**7 p.m.:** Toronto Blue Jays at New York Yankees. (Live), YES. Radio: 97.9.

**BASKETBALL**

**12 p.m.:** Basketball Africa League Cape Town Tigers vs Zamalek. (Taped) NBA

**1:30 p.m.:** Basketball Africa League Cobra Sport vs BC Espoir Fukash. (Same-day Tape) NBA

**7 p.m.:** Charlotte Hornets at Atlanta Hawks. (Live) ESPN

**9:35 p.m.:** San Antonio Spurs at New Orleans Pelicans. (Live) ESPN

**2 a.m.:** Charlotte Hornets at Atlanta Hawks. (Same-day Tape) ESPN2

**GOLF**

**9 a.m.:** Ladies Euro Tour Golf Investec South African Women's Open, Third Round. (Same-day Tape) GOLF

**11 a.m.:** Ladies Euro Tour Golf Investec South African Women's Open, Final Round. (Same-day Tape) GOLF

**4 p.m.:** Western Intercollegiate, Final Round. (Live) GOLF

**7 p.m.:** LOTTE Championship, First Round. (Live) GOLF

**HOCKEY**

**12 p.m.:** Carolina Hurricanes at New York Rangers. (Taped) NHL

**2 p.m.:** Edmonton Oilers at Minnesota Wild. (Taped) NHL

**3 p.m.:** Anaheim Ducks at Florida Panthers. (Taped) NHL

**7 p.m.:** Montreal Canadiens at Columbus Blue Jackets. (Live) SPRTNESN

**7 p.m.:** Hershey Bears at Lehigh Valley Phantoms. (Live) NHL

**7 p.m.:** New York Rangers at Philadelphia Flyers. (Live) TNT

**9:30 p.m.:** Los Angeles Kings at Colorado Avalanche. (Live) TNT

**SOCER**

**2:30 p.m.:** Fútbol UEFA Champions League Atlético de Madrid vs. Manchester City. (Live) UNI

**3 p.m.:** UEFA Champions League Soccer Liverpool vs Benfica. (Live) CBS

**9 p.m.:** CONCACAF Champions League Soccer New York City FC vs Seattle Sounders FC. (Live) FS1

**9 p.m.:** Fútbol Mexicano Primera División Guadalajara vs. Monterrey. (Live) TELE

**PHILLIES 5, METS 4 LATE MONDAY****Bullpen melts down after injured starter leaves**

By Deesha Thosar  
New York Daily News

PHILADELPHIA — The Mets were without their starting pitcher after just two innings against the Phillies, spelling disaster for the bullpen to cover the remaining seven frames.

Despite David Peterson carrying the load, his strong effort in relief went from a turning point to a spoiled performance.

Taijuan Walker exited his

first start of the year after two perfect innings with what the Mets are calling right shoulder irritation. Then Peterson, who entered in the third, ate the middle innings and dominated the Phillies lineup, but for the second straight day an ugly eighth inning and a late rally sealed a Mets loss.

"If we would've won, it would've been on Peterson's shoulders," said Mets manager Buck Showalter. "This one hurts."

"The good thing is we have the chance to take that hurt away tomorrow. That's the beauty of our game, but sometimes it could be cruel."

Once Trevor May became the second Mets pitcher on Monday night to leave his outing with a physical issue, the bullpen could not stop the bleeding. JT. Realmuto cranked a two-run homer off left-hander Joely Rodriguez, then Rhys Hoskins and Didi Gregorius

collected back-to-back RBI doubles against Seth Lugo to complete a five-run rally and hand the Mets a 5-4 loss in the series opener at Citizens Bank Park.

Both Walker (right shoulder) and May (possible arm fatigue) went for MRIs on Tuesday morning.

"I threw a slider, felt like [my shoulder] got a little irritated," Walker said. "Just kind of felt sore, so I came out just to be safe. It's already feeling better."

Peterson's four scoreless innings were, at least, one bright spot of Monday's bullpen meltdown.

The left-hander threw four scoreless innings and allowed just three hits against a tough Philly lineup.

"My job is to go out there and get outs," said Peterson, who was called up from Triple-A Syracuse on Saturday after Edwin Diaz was placed on the bereavement list. "I'm ready for it."

**RED SOX NOTES****Pairing of Whitlock and Hill shows potential with rare save**

By Julian McWilliams  
Boston Globe

DETROIT — The Red Sox talked about it all spring. They felt it could work when they paired Garrett Whitlock with Rich Hill.

It happened a bit during Grapefruit League play, but Tuesday was the first time the Sox weaponized this formula during a regular-season game.

"I think it went good today and then some," Whitlock said after Boston's 5-3 win against the Tigers.

Whitlock might have been a bit too modest.

Hill tossed 4 1/3 innings. Manager Alex Cora then went to Hirokazu Sawamura to finish the fifth before turning it over to Whitlock for the final four. He dominated the Detroit hitters. Whitlock allowed just one base runner, a one-out walk to Jeimer Candelario in the sixth, after which he retired the final 11 hitters he faced.

When the Red Sox scored their second run in the sixth inning, Cora

decided it would be Whitlock's game. He hadn't pitched since Opening Day on Friday, so he was either going to piggyback Hill or Nate Eovaldi on Wednesday.

Boston, however, was always intrigued by the potential fit of a Hill-Whitlock pairing.

Consider: Hill is a mid-to upper-80 mph pitcher. He'll pair that with a slow curveball that he can dock down to roughly 68 mph. Whitlock can crank his velocity up to 95-97. He takes on more of a horizontal approach, pairing his four-seam fastball with his two-seamer, a slider that creates linear movement, and a changeup that has downward action.

The eye level changes for the hitter with both Whitlock and Hill on the menu, as does the speed. It likely won't go this well moving forward, but the Sox will undoubtedly take this result.

"It was the way we mapped it out in the offseason and spring training," Cora said. "And Whitlock

did an amazing job."

Already a reunion: Eduardo Rodriguez will make his first start against his former team in Wednesday's rubber match against Eovaldi. Rodriguez, 29, signed a five-year, \$77 million contract with the Tigers this offseason.

"He knows us. We know him," Cora said. "We just have to make sure we put together a good game plan against him, get that pitch count up, and try to win a ballgame."

**Battling a bug:** Trevor Story

was in the clubhouse prior to Tuesday's game, and said he's been dealing with some sort of stomach bug that has kept him out. He likely won't play Wednesday, with the team off Thursday prior to Friday's home opener against the Twins. ... No. 2 Sox prospect Triston Casas hit a 477 foot homer during Tuesday's WooSox home opener at Polar Park.

The hosts beat Lehigh Valley, 8-3... Hill, 42, faced

Miguel Cabrera, 38, twice on Tuesday, retiring him both times.

**Sox**

from Page 1

can turn the page to Whitlock. We get a lot of good matchups from that. They complement each other well. It's a good plan, it's just a matter of how long we can do it."

Whitlock allowed just one baserunner, on a sixth-inning walk to Jeimer Candelario, in an efficient 39-pitch outing.

"Rich pitched amazing, did an absolutely wonderful job," Whitlock said.

Boston, which has not been above .500, improved to 2-3.

Devers had a pair of RBI singles, raising his average to .381, and Kiké Hernández doubled twice for the Red Sox.

Detroit's Spencer Torkelson, the top pick of the 2020 amateur draft, doubled in the third inning for his first big league hit after an 0-for-10 start. The ball dropped in right-center, 309 feet from the plate, in front of the glove of diving right fielder Christian Arroyo.

"It's something I've looked forward to for a long time," Torkelson said.

"For it to finally happen, it's special. The baseball gods were tested me out a little bit, just seeing what I was made of. You've just got to persevere, trust yourself

**"Rich pitched amazing, did an absolutely wonderful job."**

Garrett Whitlock

and the hits will come."

Detroit took a 3-0 lead in the third when Torkelson scored on Robbie Grossman's groundout, Jonathan Schoop followed with a run-scoring single and Javier Báez added an RBI double.

Hernandez hit an RBI double in the sixth and scored on a single by Devers that chased Tyler Alexander, who gave up five hits in 5 1/2 innings. J.D. Martinez tied the score against Jacob Barnes when he sliced an opposite-field double off the foul line in deep right field, a call upheld in a video review.

Hernandez walked against Alex Lange (0-1) leading off the eighth and advanced on a wild pitch. Arroyo added a two-out RBI single off Will Vest.

"They did a good job with their at-bats as the game went along," Detroit manager A.J. Hinch said. "They had tougher at-bats and we didn't execute quite as well as the game went on."

**Yankees**

from Page 1

became the poster boy for pitchers using illegal sticky stuff on the balls in June when MLB decided to enforce their own rules more stringently. He adjusted and regained control of his season, only to catch COVID after the All-Star break. He got back on track and then whether it was a tight hamstring or the workload (181.1 innings pitched after just 91 in 2020), Cole went into that Wild Card game with a 6.35 ERA over his last four starts.

The Yankees are obviously looking for a bit of a bounce back from Cole this season and Opening Day wasn't the best way to turn the page on his struggles. But Wednesday night could be another chance, especially against a Blue Jays lineup that is so dangerous.

"They have a lot of talent and they have some good leaders too. That's a combination to win a lot of games," Cole said of the Blue Jays. "So, we'll have our hands full, but we're confident you know, and what we can bring to the table and, and if we execute, I think we'll be in a good spot."

**REGIONAL DIGEST****Yard Goats lose at New Hampshire**

Sebastian Espino had three hits and four RBI and Orelvis Martinez had three hits and two RBI to lead the New Hampshire Fisher Cats to an 11-4 Eastern League Northeast Division win over the visiting Hartford Yard Goats on Tuesday at Manchester, N.H.

Aaron Schunk had a two-run home run for Hartford (2-2) and Michael Toglia had two RBI. Noah Davis (0-1) took the loss, pitching four innings and allowing seven runs on five hits.

**UConn offense keeps rolling**

The UConn baseball team ran its streak of scoring in double digits to six games — all wins — with a 15-4 victory over Marist in a nonconference game at Elliot Ballpark. The Huskies (25-7) have now won seven of eight. David Smith and Matt Donlan each had a home run and five RBI to lead the Huskies' offense. Casey Dana, Ben Huber, Zach Bushling and Korey Morton each also had three hits as part of a 20-hit UConn attack.

— Staff reports

**NETS 115, CAVALIERS 108****Irving, Durant lead Nets past Cavs in play-in for No. 7 seed**

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The awful two-strike sound the Yankees play over the sound system, which sounds like a dying whale, has been an issue for the Bombers' pitchers using the PitchCom system.

The sound, which is the Imperial Alarm from Star Wars, is played when a Yankees pitcher gets two strikes on a batter and is teeth-rattling loud. The pitchers have found it interferes with them hearing the robotic voice that plays from a speaker inserted in their hat.

"The speakers are really loud and it's kind of jarring," Gerrit Cole said before Tuesday's game against the Blue Jays. "It's an interesting sound."

Yankees pitching coach Matt Blake said that the noise could get so loud that

the pitchers could not hear the pitch that the catcher was calling, but they are working around it. Cole said he would use the system for his second start of the season on Wednesday night.

**Monty feeling better:** Lefty Jordan Montgomery, who got hit by a comebacker in Sunday night's game, could barely walk on Monday, but Tuesday he was feeling much better. He threw on flat ground to test the left leg and said he would throw his bullpen on Wednesday.

But there was a real scare there.

"I think there was a little concern with him last night just because of the swelling he had in there. He had his knee drained and went for an MRI and a CT scan overnight and today that came back good. So he was significantly better today," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

Gallo had a double, single and walk Monday night. He has walked in all four of the Yankees games this season.

"When I walked in, actually, he was on the table and so much of the swelling was out of there. He's moving around. He's throwing today with the idea he'll throw his bullpen tomorrow."

**Gallo answers questions:** Before Monday night's game, Joey Gallo was answering questions about his struggles at the plate. Three hours later, the left fielder was the only Yankee to get a hit off of Toronto starter Alek Manoah and the only player with two hits in the 3-0 loss to the Blue Jays.

## SCOREBOARD

NHL									
EASTERN CONFERENCE		GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA	
x-Florida	72	51	15	6	108	302	214		
x-Toronto	72	47	19	6	100	277	221		
Tampa Bay	72	44	20	8	96	239	204		
Boston	72	45	22	5	95	227	195		
Detroit	72	28	34	10	65	209	277		
Buffalo	74	26	37	11	63	203	264		
Ottawa	72	26	40	6	58	193	236		
Montreal	73	20	42	11	57	192	279		
<b>METRO.</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>PTS</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>		
x-Carolina	73	47	18	8	102	243	175		
x-N.Y. Rangers	73	47	20	6	100	225	187		
Pittsburgh	74	42	22	10	94	243	205		
Washington	72	42	20	10	90	240	210		
N.Y. Islanders	71	33	29	9	75	195	196		
Columbus	73	34	33	6	74	235	273		
Philadelphia	72	23	38	11	57	188	256		
New Jersey	72	25	41	6	56	221	269		

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
x-Colorado	72	52	14	6	110	275	198		
Minnesota	71	44	21	6	94	263	222		
St. Louis	72	42	20	10	94	264	207		
Nashville	72	41	26	5	87	236	210		
Dallas	72	41	27	4	86	214	217		
Winnipeg	74	35	28	11	81	230	232		
Chicago	72	24	37	11	59	192	255		
Arizona	72	22	45	5	48	179	265		
<b>PACIFIC</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>PTS</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>		
Calgary	72	44	19	9	97	253	178		
Edmonton	73	42	25	6	90	255	230		
Los Angeles	74	38	26	10	80	212	214		
Vegas	73	40	24	9	84	234	216		
Vancouver	73	35	28	10	82	212	206		
Anaheim	74	29	33	12	70	208	242		
San Jose	71	29	33	9	67	186	228		
Seattle	72	23	43	6	52	186	250		
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.									
x-clinched playoff spot									
y-clinched division									
z-clinched conference									

## TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Anaheim at Florida, late  
Buffalo at Toronto, late  
Carolina at N.Y. Rangers, late  
Philadelphia at Washington, late  
St. Louis at Boston, late  
Ottawa at Detroit, late  
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders, late  
Edmonton at Minnesota, late  
San Jose at Nashville, late  
Los Angeles at Chicago, late  
Seattle at Calgary, late  
Tampa Bay at Dallas, late  
New Jersey at Arizona, late  
Vegas at Vancouver, late

## WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Montreal at Columbus, 7 p.m.  
N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
Seattle at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.  
Los Angeles at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY'S GAMES

Anaheim at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.  
Detroit at Carolina, 7 p.m.  
N.Y. Islanders at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.  
Ottawa at Boston, 7 p.m.  
St. Louis at Buffalo, 7 p.m.  
Washington at Toronto, 7 p.m.  
Edmonton at Nashville, 8 p.m.  
Minnesota at Dallas, 8 p.m.  
San Jose at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.  
New Jersey at Colorado, 9 p.m.  
Vegas at Calgary, 9 p.m.  
Arizona at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

## FRIDAY'S GAMES

N.Y. Islanders at Montreal, 7 p.m.  
Winnipeg at Florida, 7 p.m.

## MONDAY'S RESULT

Winnipeg 4, Montreal 2

## SEASON GOALTENDING LEADERS

WINS	TM	GP	W	L	OL
Juuse Saros	NSH	60	35	22	3
Andrei Vasilevskiy	TBL	56	35	16	5
Frederik Andersen	CAR	50	34	13	3
Sergei Bobrovsky	FLA	47	34	6	3
Darci Kuemper	COL	50	34	9	3
Jacob Markstrom	CGY	57	34	14	8
Igor Shesterkin	NYI	48	34	10	4
Tristan Jarry	PIT	57	33	18	6
Thatcher Demko	VAN	58	30	20	6
Cam Talbot	MIN	44	28	12	4
Jack Campbell	TOR	44	27	9	5
Connor Hellebuyck	WPG	62	27	25	10
Jake Oettinger	DAL	42	26	13	1
Mikko Koskinen	EDM	41	25	10	4
Elvis Merzlikins	CBA	51	24	19	6

## SAVE PCT.

GP	TEAM	SV%	W	GP	TEAM	SV%	W
Igor Shesterkin	48	NYR	.935				
Ilya Sorokin	44	NYI	.927				
Darci Kuemper	50	COL	.926				
Frederik Andersen	50	CAR	.925				
Jacob Markstrom	57	CGY	.925				
Juuse Saros	60	NSH	.921				
Tristan Jarry	57	PIT	.919				
Andrei Vasilevskiy	56	TBL	.917				
James Reimer	43	SJS	.915				
Jake Oettinger	42	DAL	.914				
Jack Campbell	44	TOR	.912				
Connor Hellebuyck	62	WPG	.911				
Cam Talbot	44	MIN	.911				
Sergei Bobrovsky	47	FLA	.911				
Marc-Andre Fleury	50	MIN	.910				

## GOALST VS AVG

TEAM	GP	W	L	OL	GA	GAA
Frederik Andersen	CAR	50	20	7	2,070	4.14
Igor Shesterkin	NYR	48	20	7	2,070	4.14
Jacob Markstrom	CGY	57	21	6	2,070	4.14
Ilya Sorokin	NYI	44	22	7	2,070	4.14
Darci Kuemper	COL	50	23	7	2,070	4.14
James Reimer	SJS	43	27	6	2,070	4.14
Jake Oettinger	DAL	42	25	7	2,070	4.14
Jack Campbell	TOR	44	27	6	2,070	4.14
Connor Hellebuyck	WPG	62	27	25	2,070	4.14
Cam Talbot	MIN	44	28	6	2,070	4.14
Marc-Andre Fleury	CHI	56	20	25	2,070	4.14
minimum 40 games played						

## SHUTOUTS

TEAM	SO	QS


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## UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Huskies lose another guard as Floyd Jr. enters portal

By Shreyas Laddha

Hartford Courant

The UConn men's basketball team is losing another guard as redshirt freshman Corey Floyd Jr. will be entering the NCAA transfer portal, a UConn source confirmed on Tuesday.

He will have four years of eligibility left.

Floyd joins fellow guards Rahsoul Diggins and Jalen Gaffney as players who have entered the portal. In addition, guards R.J. Cole and

Tyrese Martin had previously announced plans to turn pro. The Huskies now have five open scholarship spots available for the 2022-23 season.

UConn coach Dan Hurley will have to fill in the roster gaps via the transfer portal as the Huskies are down to three guards: Andrew Hurley, Andre Jackson and Jordan Hawkins.

Currently UConn lacks a true point guard with Jackson the only one who has played significant minutes at the position.

On Saturday former East Carolina point guard Tristen Newton visited campus. Newton averaged 17.7 points, 4.8 rebounds and 5.0 assists in the 2021-22 season. According to CBS's Jon Rothstein, the Huskies have also been interested in Texas transfer Courtney Ramey and former South Carolina guard Devin Carter.

Floyd is ranked No. 93 overall in the Class of 2022 according to 247sports. He was originally a Class of 2022 recruit, but graduated

from Roselle Catholic High in New Jersey early and entered UConn the fall of 2021 as a redshirt freshman.

Floyd was one of three members of the Huskies' Class of 2022. He was joined by Alex Karaban, a 6-8 forward from Northborough, Mass., who was also an early entry and redshirted, and Bristol Central High star Donovan Clingen.

Shreyas Laddha can be reached at [sladdha@courant.com](mailto:sladdha@courant.com) or at [@shre98](https://twitter.com/shre98) on Twitter.



Rahsoul Diggins, left, and Corey Floyd, Jr. during UConn's annual First Night celebration on Oct. 15, 2021. Both players have chosen to enter the transfer portal. **JESSICA HILL/AP**

## Amore

from Page 1

in Manhattan, it was a sign that there would be no Huskies taken in the first round. Still, it was weird to see that unfold when the Sun completed the first round by taking Nia Clouden of Michigan State and Williams, who had been slotted there or higher in some mock drafts, remained.

There were shades of other first-round vigils like the 2021 NBA Draft, when UConn's James Bouknight waited longer than expected and bristled as the Hornets took him at No. 11. Or in 2002 when Caron Butler went No. 10 and vowed to "make them pay for passing on me." Williams didn't seem quite as annoyed to fall into the second round, where Washington took her with the 14th pick, but she's too much a competitor not to take note.

"Absolutely," Williams said. "It's all motivation. I will play with a chip on my shoulder. It's all about motivation, me not getting invited, all the teams passing up, blah, blah, blah, I know God has me in the right place at the right time and Washington is a great fit for me."

By the weekend, Williams will be with her new team, surrounded by former All-Americans and fighting along with No. 3 pick Shakira Austin of Ole Miss to impress at training camp. There she will learn, as most draftees do, that once the pro career starts the number next to the draft pick becomes less and less relevant. It's more important to go to the team that wants you, and for the right reasons.

"We were a little surprised when she wasn't invited," said Thibault, who coached the Connecticut Sun from 2003-12. "As it turns out she came to the 14th pick. As a league, you're not going to get it right on who you invite to the draft or not. I know they take input from the various teams, some of us tell the truth, some of us don't. I don't, all the time. I don't want everybody to know who I like. ... When Vegas was picking with the 13th pick we were all crossing our fingers and toes and everything else in hoping Christyn was still going to be there. And luckily she was."

Williams scored 1,850 points for UConn, a stellar career that ended with a bad taste as she went 1-for-7 in the NCAA championship game. It was the only time in 16 NCAA Tournament games she fell short of double digits. She'd averaged 16.7 points in



Christyn Williams reacts during the fourth quarter against NC State on March 28 in Bridgeport, Conn. **FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP**

## Connecticut Sun add three more to training camp roster

The Connecticut Sun are going to have quite the competitive training camp ahead of the 2022 season.

The team announced Tuesday that it signed three more players to training camp contracts: 6-foot forward Alexus Dye (Tennessee), 5-10 guard Delicia Washington (Clemson) and 6-3 forward Aleksa Gulbe (Indiana).

The trio will be fighting for roster spots alongside Taj Cole, Joyner Holmes, Keyona Hayes and Yvonne Anderson, who were also signed to such agreements, along with Nia Clouden and Jordan Lewis, who were both drafted by the Sun on Monday night.

Dye averaged 10.2 points and 7.7 rebounds in 23.1 minutes per game for the Volunteers this past season. She spent two years before that at Troy, Washington, the seventh guard Connecticut has added in some capacity this offseason, put up 17.2 points, 6.4 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 2.1 steals per game for the Tigers in 2021-22; she spent two seasons at Clemson and three at Florida. Gulbe produced 11.8 points and 6.3 rebounds per game for the Hoosiers this past season.

The Sun open the 2022 season on May 7 at the New York Liberty at 6 p.m.

— Lila Bromberg

the previous 15. During the Women's Final Four, she won the Ann Meyers Drysdale award as the nation's top shooting guard.

Thibault likes his guards to be able to play with or without the ball, and Williams can do that. He looks for players who can defend multiple positions. He believes Williams can do that despite her lost night against South Carolina's Destanni Henderson, who was drafted six picks later on Monday between Nelson-Ododa at No. 19 and Westbrook at 21.

His roster as it is,

Thibault said his rookies will have to earn every minute they get without the luxury of bruised feelings.

"I don't have any expectations," Williams said. "I just know I'm going to go in there, work my hardest, give my full effort and do whatever Coach tells me to do."

Thibault unmuted again. "Good answer," he said.

"The chip on her shoulder, I kind of kidded her about it," Thibault said. "That's another thing she can use. For any player it's natural to remember what people passed you by. But you also can be grateful for the ones that love you, too. When she walks in the door this weekend to get ready for training camp, she's going to be excited and happy to be with us."

Dom Amore can be reached at [damore@courant.com](mailto:damore@courant.com)

## 'Coaches Road Show' relaunches next month

By Dom Amore

Hartford Courant

With the pandemic subsiding, UConn has deemed it safe to put its coaches back on the road.

Not only are they back on the recruiting trail, but UConn's coaches will be on the road, meeting and greeting fans and alumni this spring in a new "Coaches Road Show," the first since 2019. Geno Auriemma, Dan Hurley and new football coach Jim Mora will make all three stops, in Southington,

Stratford and New York, with other coaches joining at various stops.

"We are excited to revive the 'Coaches Road Show' this spring," AD David Benedict said. "As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, it is important that we make every effort to engage with UConn Nation and show our fans how deeply we appreciate their support."

Our coaches and staff had a great time interacting with our supporters in previous road shows and we are all eager to connect in this

setting once again."

The events are open to the public, admission \$25.

Space is limited and registration is required at these links: May 16 at the Kinsman Brewing Company in Southington, May 17 at Two Roads Brewing Company in Stratford and May 18 at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York, all 6-8 p.m.

The format will include an opportunity to meet and greet coaches and administrators, a short speaking program, a question-and-answer session, appetizers and a cash bar.

## NHL BLUES 4, BRUINS 2

## Tarasenko scores twice, Blues push past ailing Bruins

Associated Press

Vladimir Tarasenko scored twice, including the go-ahead goal in the second period, and the visiting St. Louis Blues rallied to beat the Boston Bruins 4-2 on Tuesday night.

Torey Krug and David Perron each finished with a goal and an assist as the Blues (43-20-10) posted their sixth straight victory.

Ville Husso had 39 saves to win his fifth straight start. Robert Thomas added his 48th assist of the season, extending his career-best point streak to 10 games.

Boston (45-23-5) has lost three of its last four since a three-game winning streak. Patrice Bergeron scored his 20th goal of the season, and rookie Marc McLaughlin had his second career goal. Jeremy Swayman finished with 26 saves.

St. Louis arrived for its first visit to Boston since October 2019 as one of the league's hottest teams, but started slowly against a Bruins squad looking to bounce back after dropping two of three to end a four-game road trip.

Boston played well in the early going, despite being

without leading goal scorer David Pastrnak, who missed his fourth consecutive game with an undisclosed injury, along with defenseman Matt Grzelcyk (upper body) and Hampus Lindholm (lower body).

But the loss of defenseman Brandon Carlo just 4:48 into the game with an undisclosed issue proved to be too much for Boston as the game wore one.

The Blues entered with a plus-36 goal differential in the second period and added to it Tuesday.

Trailing 2-1 and on the power play, Krug got

his stick on a loose puck, weaved his way through Boston's defense and tied it up with his shot into the top of the net from the middle of slot. Barely three minutes later, Tarasenko was wide on a break when he received a pass from Thomas, spun and fired in his 27th goal of the season to make it 3-2.

The puck was flying around early, with both teams scoring in the first minute of action.

The Blues needed just 34 seconds to get on the board after Ryan O'Reilly led a 2-on-1 breakaway and fed the puck ahead to Perron,

who put away a backhander past Swayman.

**Hurricanes 4, Rangers 2:** At New York, Seth Jarvis and Jordan Staal scored third-period goals and Frederik Andersen made 28 saves as Carolina won the showdown for first place in the Metropolitan Division.

Chris Kreider scored late for his 50th goal of the season, but Carolina moved four points ahead of second-place New York with eight games remaining in the regular season. Kreider became the fourth player in Rangers history to reach the milestone.

The Rangers had their three-game winning streak snapped but are 7-2-1 in their last 10. They clinched a playoff berth for the first time since 2017 with a win over Ottawa last Saturday and are 24-8-4 at home.

After the teams traded goals in the second period, Jarvis put the Hurricanes ahead at 1:04 of the third, taking a pass from Sebastian Aho and flipping a backhand past Rangers goaltender Igor Shesterkin. Aho finished with a goal and two assists. He leads the Hurricanes with 41 assists and 75 points.

"I give her a lot of credit for that — to not have your top game and have to battle through every inning and battle through every single at-bat."

Lewis said her team was missing a few starters and had to shift some players around.

"My players are able to play in those positions I put them," she said. "I just think we weren't mentally locked in today."

Lori Riley can be reached at [lriley@courant.com](mailto:lriley@courant.com).

## Safety Tip of the Day

If you are taking multiple drugs and supplements each day, it's essential to understand each one's potential side effects and drug interactions.

# NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

## SHORTS

### Mavs: Doncic's injury status unclear



The Mavericks are not putting a timetable on Luka Doncic's return from a calf strain four days before the opener of a first-round NBA playoff series against the Jazz. The team said Tuesday that the 23-year-old All-Star had begun treatment. Doncic strained his left calf in what turned out to be a meaningless regular-season finale Sunday. The Mavericks open the playoffs at home Saturday against the Jazz. The fourth-seeded Mavericks have home-court advantage in the playoffs for the first time since they won their only championship in 2011. That's also the last time the Mavs won a postseason series. "He's in great spirits today," coach Jason Kidd said after Tuesday's practice. "We'll see how his body feels tomorrow. I think we'll prepare with him and without him." Doncic finished as the NBA's third-leading scorer at 28.4 points per game. He was the only player in the league to average at least 28 points, eight rebounds and eight assists per game. Jalen Brunson said he was optimistic Doncic would play. "I hope for the best," Brunson said. "I mean, that's our organization right there."

### Another prestigious honor for Scully



Vin Scully won the second Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Baseball Digest. The longtime Dodgers announcer was honored Tuesday with an annual distinction that recognizes a living individual "who has made significant contributions to the national game." The 94-year-old Scully retired after the 2016 season, ending a 67-year broadcasting career that stretched back to when the Dodgers played in Brooklyn before moving to Los Angeles in the late 1950s. It was easily the longest tenure of any announcer with one team. He was one of six finalists last year, when Willie Mays won the inaugural award. This year, a 17-member panel chose from a list of candidates that included Bobby Cox, Sandy Koufax, Rachel Robinson, Bud Selig and Joe Torre, among others. "Any award that's already been won by Willie Mays ... is an honor," Scully said in a news release. "It's an honor to even have my name linked with his in some way." Scully won the National Baseball Hall of Fame's Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasting excellence in 1982 and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016.

### Djokovic drops clay-court opener



Novak Djokovic opened his clay-court season with a surprising loss to Alejandro Davidovich Fokina at the Monte Carlo Masters on Tuesday. Davidovich Fokina stunned the top-ranked Serb 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-1 in the second round to hand Djokovic another setback as he tries to move on from the controversy surrounding his refusal to get vaccinated against COVID-19. It makes for rare back-to-back losses for Djokovic, who hadn't played since being eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Dubai Tennis Championships in February — his only previous tournament this year after he was barred from playing at the Australian Open. Djokovic struggled from the start against the 46th-ranked Spaniard. Djokovic couldn't defend his Australian Open title in January after he was deported from the country for not being vaccinated. He had to skip tournaments in the United States for the same reason. The authorities in France and Monaco lifted most COVID-19 restrictions last month. That means Djokovic will be able to play at the French Open, which remains his "big goal of the clay season." —AP



All-Star point guard Ja Morant led the Grizzlies to a 56-26 regular-season record, which was second best in the NBA. AP FILE

## NBA PLAYOFFS

# Morant makes them go

All-Star's all-around play has Grizzlies thinking big

By Teresa M. Walker

Associated Press

A rested and rehabbed Ja Morant will back for the NBA playoffs, and the All-Star guard has the young, talented Grizzlies believing they're ready to make a deep postseason run.

Morant sat out the regular season finale Sunday, but returned the night before after missing nine games with a sore right knee.

"I felt like I needed a game or two to get my legs back under me, to get the game-type feel," Morant said.

It appears he has his legs back under him.

Morant scored 21 points in a win over the Pelicans that tied the Grizzlies' franchise record for victories in a season at 56. Then along with the team's other starters, he sat out the regular season finale.

It has been a steady ascension for Morant, who uplifts the Grizzlies with each step he takes.

The overall No. 2 pick in the 2019 draft and 2020 rookie of the year, Morant helped end the Grizzlies' playoff drought in 2021 as they played their way to the No. 8 seed.

Now with resume worthy of MVP consideration, he has led the Grizzlies to their highest seed ever at No. 2 in the Western Conference with the NBA's second-best record of 56-26.

The Grizzlies believe they're ready to take the next step, reaching the playoffs is no longer good enough for this team.

The Grizzlies start their quest Saturday hosting either the Timberwolves or Clippers, whose play-in game Tuesday night ended too late for this edition.

Not that the opponent matters to Morant.

"I'm focused on us," the third-year guard out of Murray State said. "Getting better during that week stretch and just being ready to go out there and play the first two games here at home. No matter who it is, we go into the game the same way. It's going to be different coverages, depending on the team, but our play style never changes."

This franchise was swept in the 2013 West finals, which was the only time it got past the second round.

Morant's value to the Grizzlies goes beyond mere stats.

Head cheerleader when on the bench, he brings everyone to their feet by dunking over 7-footers, throwing down lobs or dishing the ball off to a teammate for an easy basket.

Even his high-flying blocks on defense are must-see TV.

His own coach wants to see what Morant does next to attack with his "elite level" ball-handling skills.

"That's what you need at this level," Grizzlies coach Taylor Jenkins said.

"I'm trying to follow him at times to see what's coming next but when he does something I'm like, 'Here we go!' This is what he does."

"I know he has more in store moving forward that's going to definitely surprise me."

And likely opponents as well.

Morant boosted his scoring average by 8.3 points a game and improved in

every statistical category this season. He averaged 27.4 points, 5.7 rebounds and 6.7 assists in 57 games.

Magic coach Jamahl Mosley said people get so enamored watching Morant's nightly highlight-reel plays that they forget his high basketball IQ.

"His ability to understand where the reads are on the floor, teams are still going under him and he's still able to get to the paint at such a high clip," Mosley said. "He's just playing at a tremendous pace, and he has the ability to get to the paint continuously without teams being able to stop him."

Morant's speed and fearlessness driving to the basket helped him shoot 49.3% in the paint where he averaged an NBA-high 16.8 points. He had 22 games this season scoring at least 20 points in the paint, most by a guard over the last 25 seasons according to ESPN Stats & Info.

With this ability to get to the basket, when he's making 3s Spurs forward Doug McDermott said Morant has almost un-guardable.

"He's so quick," McDermott said. "He can split ball screens and he gets everyone else involved. He's a great player."

"We'll be seeing a lot of him in the coming years."

Having Morant healthy for the post-season is a confidence boost for the Grizzlies, even though they went 20-5 without him during the season.

"He's the motor for our team ...," forward Brandon Clarke said. "Obviously we're still a good, good team without him. But with Ja, we're great."

AP freelance writer Clay Bailey in Memphis contributed to this report.

## NBA PLAYOFFS

# Hawks place focus squarely on present

By Paul Newberry | Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Hawks never expected to be in this position.

Not after last summer's surprising run to the Eastern Conference final.

But here they are, needing to win two play-in games just to make the playoffs.

First up: the Hornets on Wednesday night in a matchup between the ninth and 10th seeds in the East.

"Our destiny is in our hands," Hawks center Clint Capela said.

The Hawks were one of the biggest surprises of the 2021 postseason, knocking off both the Knicks and the top-seeded 76ers before losing to the eventual-champion Bucks in a highly competitive conference final.

With a young core led by Trae Young, the Hawks set a goal of finishing in the top four in the East this season. Instead, after a year plagued by COVID issues, injuries and a strange lack of chemistry, they had to settle for the next-to-last play-in spot.

"We have to live in the moment," coach Nate McMillan said. "We can't think about all of that. We have a game we have to win."

The Hornets are in the play-in tournament for the second year in a row. While they haven't made the playoffs since 2016, they appear to be a franchise on the rise.

"We feel like we can definitely win and sneak into the playoffs," guard Terry Rozier said.

The winner of the 9-10 game advances to a road contest Friday against the loser of the 7-8 game between the Nets and Cavaliers for the final playoff spot in the East. The Nets-Cavs game Tuesday night ended too late for this edition.

"We've still got a chance to make the playoffs," Young said. "We've got to take advantage of it."

## Play-in redux

The Hornets had 10 more victories than a year ago in the abbreviated 72-game schedule, but they still finished 10th in the East for the second straight season.

In the 2021 play-in game, the Hornets were routed 144-117 by the ninth-seeded Pacers. Several Hornets players have talked about the sting of that loss providing momentum coming into this season.

The Hornets are healthier and playing much better than they were a year ago. The Hornets won 11 of their last 15.

"Most years we would be the seven or the eight seed — most years — but this year the East was more competitive," Hornets coach James Borrego said. "I am really proud of this group."

## Doubling down?

Young had a historic season, becoming only the second player in NBA history after Tiny Archibald to lead the league in both total points (2,155) and assists (737).

The Hornets had good success against Young in their final regular-season matchup, using a wave of double teams to hold him to a season-low nine points on 3-of-12 shooting.

Young did manage to dish out 15 assists in that game.

"We can't let him breath," Rozier said. "He's a pretty confident player, but we have to make it tough for him."

## Hawks vs. Hornets

Where, when, TV: Atlanta; 7 p.m. (EDT) Wednesday; ESPN.

Bottom line: The Hawks host the Hornets in the NBA playoffs play-in tournament. The winner earns the eighth seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs. The Hawks are 26-26 against East opponents. They have a 7-3 overall record in one-possession games. The Hornets are 27-25 in conference games. They're fourth in the NBA scoring at 115.3 points per game while shooting 46.8% from the field.

Top performers: Trae Young is scoring 28.4 points per game and averaging 3.7 rebounds for the Hawks. Bogdan Bogdanovic is averaging 3.7 made 3-pointers over the last 10 games. LaMelo Ball is averaging 20.1 points, 6.7 rebounds, 7.6 assists and 1.6 steals for the Hornets. Miles Bridges is averaging 21.4 points and 6.8 rebounds while shooting 52.6% over the last 10 games.

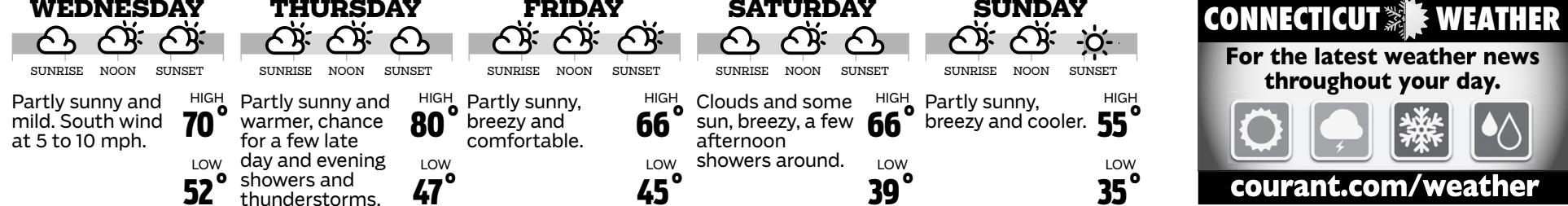
## Pelicans vs. Spurs

Where, when, TV: New Orleans; 9:30 p.m. (EDT) Wednesday; ESPN.

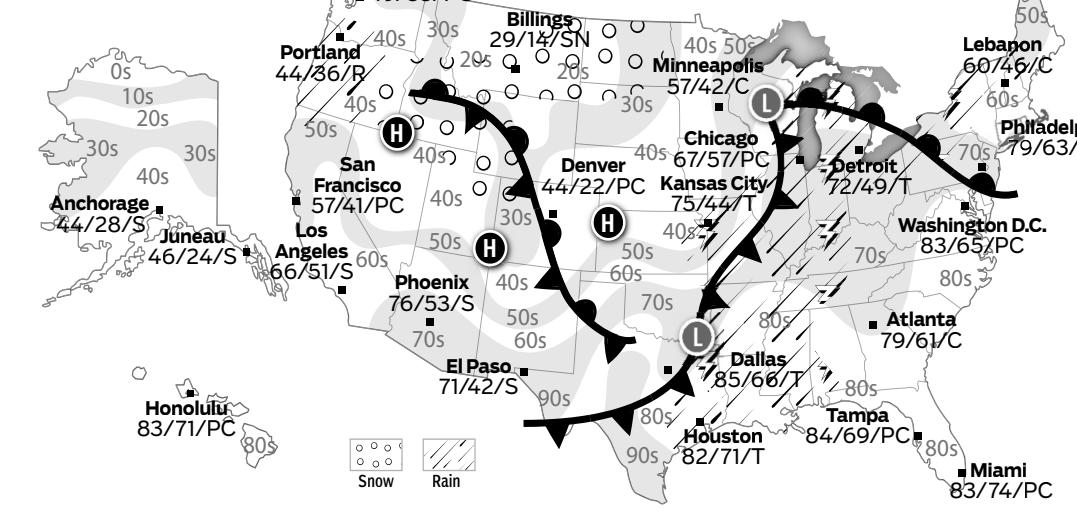
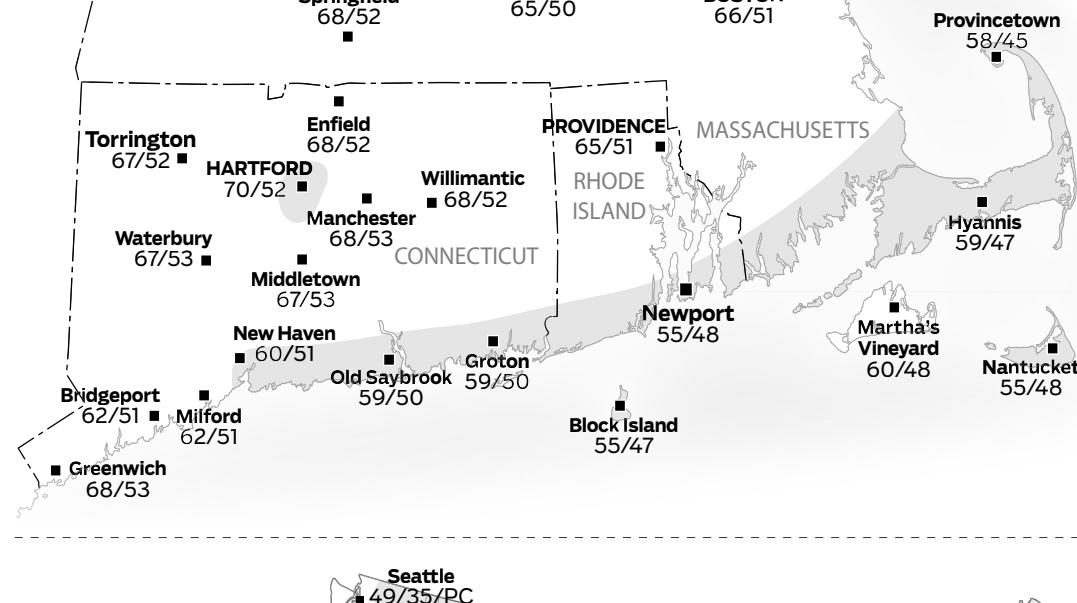
Bottom line: The Pelicans host the Spurs in the NBA playoffs play-in tournament. The winner earns the eighth seed in the Western Conference playoffs. The Pelicans are 25-27 against West opponents. They're 23-21 when they win the turnover battle and average 13.3 turnovers per game. The Spurs are 24-28 in conference games. They're ninth in the NBA with 13.6 fast break points per game. Dejounte Murray leads the Spurs, averaging 2.9.

Top performers: Devonte' Graham is shooting 34.1% from beyond the arc with 2.5 made 3s per game for the Pelicans, while averaging 11.9 points and 4.2 assists. CJ McCollum is shooting 46.9% and averaging 21.3 points over the last 10 games. Murray is averaging 21.1 points, 8.3 rebounds, 9.2 assists and two steals for the Spurs. Keldon Johnson is averaging 22.7 points over the last 10 games.

## WEATHER



## YOURCAST



## AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND		Baltimore		Nashville		77 48 T		San Juan		85 73 PC		Budapest		63 36 S	
Bangor	54 39 SH	Bismarck	80 60 PC	New Orleans	77 48 T	82 64 C	Tucson	85 73 PC	Budapest	63 36 S	63 36 S	Buenos Aires	72 46 PC	72 46 PC	72 46 PC
Burlington	56 47 SH	Boise	33 23 SN	New York	70 61 PC	63 37 PC	Amsterdam	64 46 C	Dubai	74 53 PC	74 53 PC	Cairo	75 77 S	75 77 S	75 77 S
Caribou	53 33 C	Buffalo	71 52 T	Okla. City	63 37 PC	82 64 PC	Athens	66 48 S	Dublin	85 76 PC	85 76 PC	Edinburgh	76 84 S	76 84 S	76 84 S
Concord	64 47 C	Charleston	82 64 PC	Omaha	50 27 PC	85 66 PC	Bangkok	99 82 PC	Helsinki	57 41 SH	57 41 SH	Helsinki	77 90 S	77 90 S	77 90 S
Montpelier	53 44 SH	Cincinnati	71 49 T	Orlando	85 66 PC	73 54 PC	Barbados	85 73 S	Hong Kong	84 34 PC	84 34 PC	Paris	78 95 S	78 95 S	78 95 S
Mt. Wash.	41 39 SH	Cleveland	71 50 SH	Pittsburgh	73 54 PC	83 61 PC	Beirut	67 53 PC	Istanbul	57 45 C	57 45 C	Prague	79 98 S	79 98 S	79 98 S
Portland	56 42 C	Indianapolis	62 42 T	Raleigh	83 61 PC	73 54 PC	Beijing	66 43 C	Jerusalem	66 43 PC	66 43 PC	Rio de Janeiro	80 100 S	80 100 S	80 100 S
Woods Hole	59 49 PC	Jacksonville	83 61 PC	St. Louis	67 36 T	73 54 PC	Bermuda	72 65 S	Johannesburg	72 55 PC	72 55 PC	Rome	81 100 S	81 100 S	81 100 S
NATION		Las Vegas	65 51 PC	Salt Lake City	45 35 PC	84 35 PC	Kingston	90 77 PC	Singapore	91 75 T	91 75 T	Seoul	82 100 S	82 100 S	82 100 S
Albany	71 56 C	Miami Beach	81 75 PC	San Antonio	92 53 PC	84 35 PC	Lisbon	64 54 PC	Stockholm	90 77 PC	90 77 PC	Singapore	83 100 S	83 100 S	83 100 S
Albuquerque	57 31 PC	Milwaukee	63 37 T	San Diego	67 56 PC	84 35 PC	London	64 48 C	Tel Aviv	68 46 C	68 46 C	Tokyo	84 100 S	84 100 S	84 100 S
Atlantic City	75 61 PC	KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T-Tstorms					Madrid	68 46 C	Toronto	63 52 SH	63 52 SH	Vancouver	85 100 S	85 100 S	85 100 S

## OUTLOOK

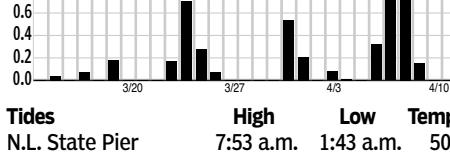
It was a pleasant day on Tuesday with high temperatures in the lower 70s statewide, even in southeastern coastal areas when the wind briefly turned northwesterly and away from Long Island Sound. Wednesday should be close to Tuesday's readings, except along the shoreline where a south wind will likely keep readings cooler. Thursday will feature partly sunny skies with temperatures turning unseasonably warm inland as highs climb through the 70s to near 80 degrees. It should be the warmest day so far this year. A few late day showers and thunderstorms are expected.

-Gary Lesser

## ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.14
Month to date	2.77
Total this year	12.25

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks



## Air Quality Forecast For Today

Good	Moderate	Moderate	37°
46	4	Trees	
Air Quality Today	Ultraviolet Index Today	Pollen Count Yesterday	Wind Chill Today
PCloudy	PCloudy	PCloudy	PCloudy
SE, 5-10	SE, 5-10	S, 5-15	2 ft.
1 ft.	1 ft.	2 ft.	

Tides

N.L. State Pier	High	Low	Temp.
7:53 a.m.	1:43 a.m.	50°	
8:09 p.m.	2:07 p.m.		
Saybrook Jetty	9:04 a.m.	2:36 a.m.	50°
	9:20 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	11:47 a.m.	4:22 a.m.	
	p.m.	6:46 p.m.	
Madison	9:24 a.m.	2:56 a.m.	48°
	9:34 p.m.	3:20 p.m.	
New Haven	9:44 a.m.	3:20 a.m.	46°
	9:54 p.m.	3:44 p.m.	
Stamford	9:48 a.m.	3:34 a.m.	46°
	9:58 p.m.	3:58 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford: 9.69 feet at 6:30 p.m.

Boating L.I. Sound W L.I. Sound E B.I. Sound Weather PCloudy PCloudy PCloudy

Wind SE, 5-10 SE, 5-10 S, 5-15

Seas 1 ft. 1 ft. 2 ft.

## Moon Phase

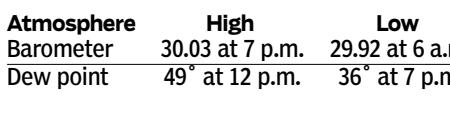
Full	Last	New	First
Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30	May 8

Temperature

High	Low
Tuesday	71 at 3:59 p.m.
Normal for date	59
Record for date	88 in 1977
A year ago	54
Range this year	76

Heating Degree Days Season Normal Last Season For July 1 - April 12 4941 5415 5001

## 30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere High Barometer 30.03 at 7 p.m. 29.92 at 6 a.m.

Dew point 49° at 12 p.m. 36° at 7 p.m.

## TUESDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

## BASEBALL

QUINNIPIAC 9, HARTFORD 8 (11)

CENTRAL 16, SIENA 4

WESLEYAN 14, TRINITY 4

EASTERN 23, WESTERN 2

FAIRFIELD 5, SACRED HEART 4

MARIST AT UCONN, LATE